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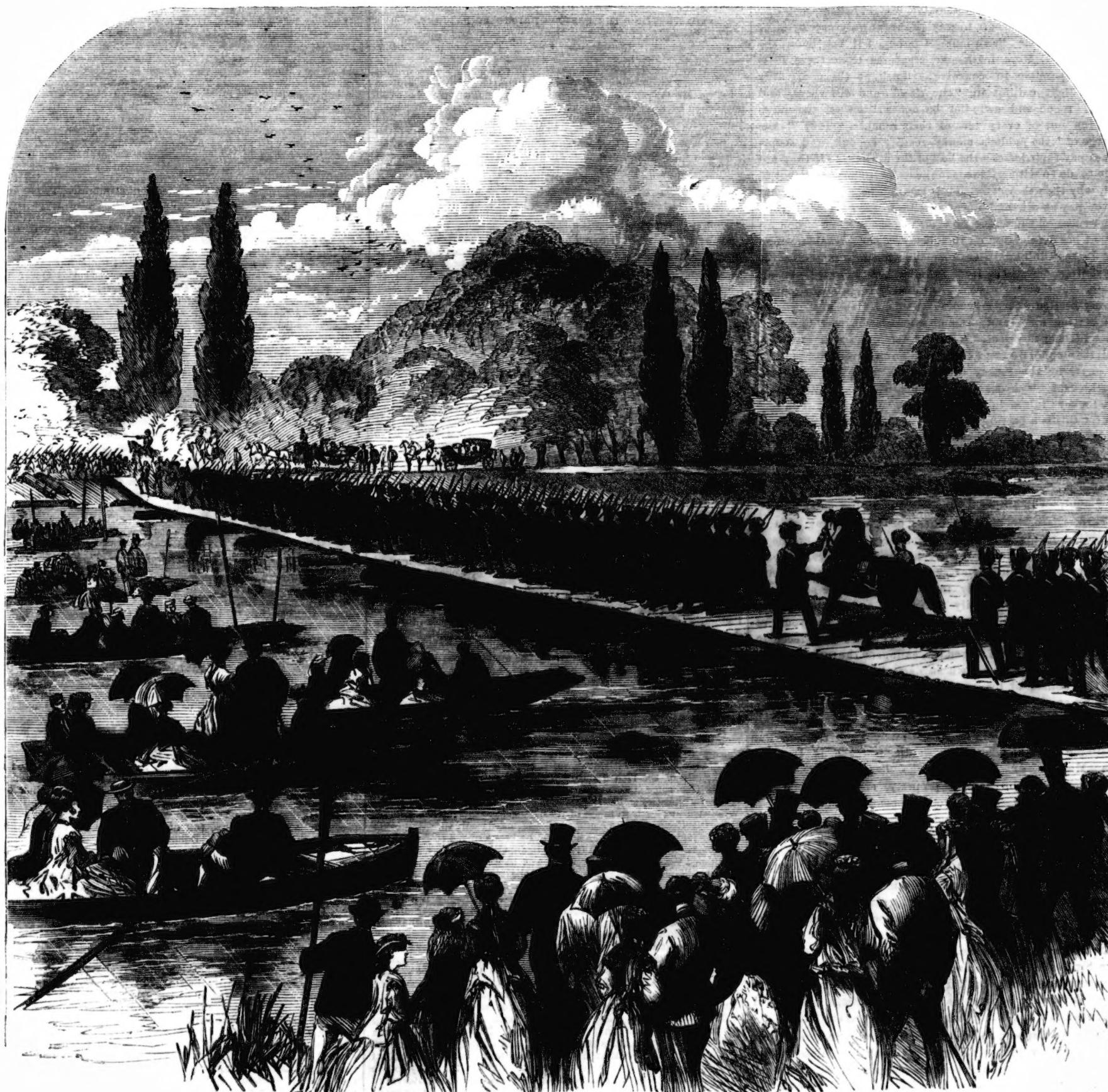
TURF SCANDALS.

"It is a betting age, Sir. Everybody bets; so I bet, too. I go with the mob; I can't help it." Such was the justification offered to us by a fellow-passenger by train lately for having risked, and lost, larger sums on a famous race than he could afford. He was going home to his family, he said, "an almost ruined man," because he could not help "falling in with the ways of the age." Now, without admitting our companion's dicta to the full extent implied—for there are, we know, large numbers of people who do not make bets—

we fear it must be allowed that this is a betting age, and that vast masses do in this respect "go with the mob," whether they make any effort to help it or not. And very disastrous are the consequences.

Time was when horse-racing was pursued for love of the sport alone. But we have changed all that in these days. Races are run now almost solely for the sake of the bets depending upon them. The sport has degenerated into a huge system of gambling; and though gambling on horse-races may be no worse than gambling in other

ways, it is pure gambling, nevertheless; and therefore immoral in itself as well as provocative of immorality in a variety of other ways. People risk more than they possess, and stoop to all sorts of meannesses, commit all sorts of frauds, to conceal or make good their losses. The apprentice and the shopboy pilfer their employers' property to pay sporting debts; merchants and tradesmen defraud their creditors, and even, sometimes, commit forgery, for a like purpose; noblemen and gentlemen squander their paternal estates and bring disgrace on



THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT WINDSOR: TROOPS CROSSING THE PONTOON BRIDGE AT DATCHET, IN PRESENCE OF THE QUEEN.

honoured names in order to gratify their gambling propensities. Betting leads many to the convict's cell, some to the suicide's grave, more to skulking and living disreputable lives abroad, nearly all who indulge in it to ruin. Almost the only persons who profit by the practice are the professional betting-men, who fatten on the spoils of the unwary, who live by fleecing greenhorns, and filch their neighbours' money without giving aught in exchange. In the train of the betting man follows the usurer, who supplies to young men "with expectations" the means of following the demoralising pursuit; nay, the professions of betting-man and money-lender are often combined in the same person, who fleeces his victims in both capacities. Of course, disaster is certain to befall the youth who gets into the hands of either class of harpies.

Then the betting mania has called into existence various orders of creatures of noxious breed, who make a wretched living by pandering to this the prevalent vice of the age. There are your inventors of "infallible" rules for betting so as to win, who advertise their nostrums at exorbitant prices, and, we presume, impose upon some silly people. Then there are the dealers in "tips," which are never worth anything, or they would not be sold. Next, we have racing prophets, whose predictions rarely come true, but who never fail to vaunt their prescience for all that, and who, we suppose, are believed, notwithstanding repeated and palpable failures. Again, there are the "touts," "watchers," spies, who haunt the vicinity of training-grounds, and report—or invent—occurrences there that are thought to throw light upon the chances of certain horses in coming "events." There is, moreover, another class of agents, whose business it is to "get at" race-horses, and so to hocus, drug, maim, or otherwise disable them as that they shall either be unable to fulfil their engagements or shall come to the starting-post in a condition unfit to run with any chance of winning. Finally, there are those disreputable-looking, blatant betting men who haunt our street corners to waylay the unwary neophyte, or bellow out their discordant "I'll bet, I'll bet!" on the racecourse. More loathsome creatures than these it is scarcely possible to conceive. Look at them as they pursue their calling in "the ring" and elsewhere, and say if rogue and swindler be not written on the faces of nine out of every ten of their number. They "take charge of" the public's money readily enough, and sometimes pay their losses—the best of them, that is—if they are able to do so without inconvenience to themselves; but if not, why then they "welch it;" while not a few of them never pay at all, and never intend to pay, whether they win or lose on the whole of their transactions. To such an extent has defalcation on turf bets become prevalent, that the Jockey Club has been compelled to adopt measures for preventing defaulters from running horses or speculating again. But then the power of the Jockey Club in this matter is very limited; they have no control over the vast mass of the betting men, and the club's legislation, therefore, will have little or no effect. Habitual defaulters will still bet, will still repudiate their debts, still go on swindling, in spite of anything the Jockey Club can do. Rogues, swindlers, blacklegs, touts, houssers, welchers, will flourish, and defy the Jockey Club, so long as the betting mania lasts. The fact that "this is a betting age, Sir," accounts for the existence, and tolerance, of these excrescences upon society, who prey upon human weakness and folly, but who, did a more wholesome state of public feeling prevail, would be deemed, and treated as, "rogues and vagabonds, following no lawful employment," which indeed they literally are.

Turn, again, to another phase of the working of this gambling mania, and note its influences there. Scions of ancient houses, the bearers of honourable names, become involved in the meshes of the betting man and the usurer, play the part of the fly in the hands of the spider, as Admiral Rous has happily phrased it, and stoop to meanness and endure degradations from which the souls of honourable men recoil with horror. Thus we have recently seen one youthful Earl ruined by dealings on the turf and with usurers; a noble Duke, whose name has been conspicuous in the annals of his country for centuries, is said to be making an attempt to break the family entails in order to be at liberty to squander his ancestral estates in those betting speculations in which he has already sunk most of his available fortune; and the latest instance is that of the Marquis of Hastings, who has already parted with some of the family property, and has gone far to besmirch a name that stood foremost in the historical records of England. It is not a little saddening to find the representative of that "young Rawdon" who was the favourite lieutenant of the great Cornwallis, and who, as Earl of Moira, subsequently fully justified the confidence of his superior, stooping to allow his name to be, even for a moment, and however innocently, mixed up in such questionable transactions, such scandals, as those connected with the Lady Elizabeth fiasco and the mysterious scratching of The Earl for the Derby and the Ascot Gold Cup. "It is a betting age, Sir." Yes, 'tis true; and pity 'tis 'tis true, since, in consequence, titles conferred for honourable and gallant services to the State are debased and dragged through the mud of turf scandals and disreputable gambling transactions.

Were we disposed to be cynical, to indulge in a desire for democratic levelling, or even to give way to philosophising in the hard spirit of the political economist, we might be inclined to laugh at current folly and to rejoice over the disgrace of aristocratic titles and the dissipation of ancestral

domains; but we confess to the weakness of respecting old and honoured names, and we mourn their degradation. We lament, moreover, the moral taint that is creeping through society in connection with the gambling spirit of the time. Hence we regret that this "is a betting age" and that turf scandals are so rife; and should like, if we could, to persuade young men of all ranks to keep themselves free from contamination.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW IN WINDSOR PARK.

THE volunteer review last Saturday was most successful; but then it is difficult to say what could make any review of volunteers by the Queen in person unsuccessful if the weather were fine and the common enjoyment of the sightseers and sightmakers were marred by no accident. The site and the weather were in the main very favourable; and if it be objected that the park in this leafy month of June, now in its fulness of beauty, obscured too many movements behind its screen of foliage, and that the atmosphere might have come down a few degrees without serious inconvenience to the most chilly of mortals, the objector must be regarded as a captious person.

The thirty-first anniversary of the accession to the throne of a Queen under whose rule the kingdom has carried on great wars, has engaged in many little ones, and has enjoyed a large share of material prosperity, afforded a happy opportunity for a demonstration which was postponed in obedience to influences of weight and moment on a former occasion. We believe that had the wishes of the highest military authority been consulted, a number of regulars would have taken part in the display, and it would certainly have been interesting to observe how the two bodies worked together. Aldershot is not very far off; but considerations, possibly connected with the Treasury, stood in the way. At first, indeed, it was understood that there would not be a shot fired at the review; but representations of the disheartening effect of such a prohibition were graciously listened to, and every volunteer was made happy in the possession of twenty rounds of blank cartridge and a prospect of expending them. A march past is inevitably tedious, but it is inevitable; without some firing, it is as a salad without the dressing; though, with great respect for usage and certain military notions, we venture to think the dressing might be got ready for the salad first. If the march past were preceded by the field-day, and by the simple manoeuvres customary on such occasions, there would be a little more excitement created among the spectators and the men, and the task of re-forming the line of review would afford a test of the mobility of the force *en masse*.

CONSTRUCTING THE PONTOON-BRIDGE AT DATCHET.

The proceedings of the day itself were agreeably and instructively opened at an early hour by a Troop of the Royal Engineers throwing a pontoon-bridge over the Thames at Datchet. The troop marched to Windsor from Aldershot, and arrived on Friday night; and on Saturday morning they began to form the pontoon at a place opposite Mr. Galpin's house, where the river flows gently between contracted banks. The work attracted a crowd of spectators from Datchet, and early visitors from the vicinity, as the sappers moored and laid the cylinders. It might be at 10.30, or somewhat later, when the sappers began, and as they were in the midst of the operation the Queen, in an open carriage, accompanied by Princesses Louise and Beatrice, drove up and gazed on the animated little picture with much interest. In about half an hour the pontoon (280 ft. long) was laid from bank to bank, and then it was tested by the sappers. The bridge was intended for the use of the volunteers arriving at the Datchet station, and it enabled a force of more than 8000 men to march at once to the Home Park without going over the bridges or round by Windsor. It was soon tried by the 3rd Essex Administrative Battalion, which, under Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Davis, had come from Ilford by the Great Eastern to Shoreditch, and marched to Broad-street, and thence by rail to Datchet. The arrival of the corps created a little sensation, and as it marched to the head of the bridge, with the band playing, the Queen was seen approaching the opposite bank in her carriage as before, and took up a position close at hand as the corps began to cross. The regular tramp of men in march is not suited to a pontoon, which is sorely tried, and expresses its feelings by certain gentle surges, unfavourable to steadiness; but the Ilford men crossed gallantly, amid the cheers of the crowd and to the evident satisfaction of the Queen. Indeed, so much pleased was her Majesty that she remained observing from the same point the arrival of several other corps and their passage to the right bank of the Thames for a considerable time, and she did not retire till just before the Robin Hoods came down, whose appearance would have given her especial gratification.

THE RENDEZVOUS IN THE LONG WALK.

Entering the park from the Datchet road, the visitor was confronted by a board with a very legible legend—all legends are not so—"To the Review," and an outstretched hand and digit, which was scarcely needed to indicate the path. The men of the 10th Hussars were stationed two and two, and kept the ground by the Long Walk down towards King George's statue, thence turning at right angles as far as the southern angle of the review-ground. At a right angle with the line formed by the 10th Hussars the men of the 1st Regiment of Life Guards, commanded by Colonel the Hon. D. De Ros, were stationed two and two guarding the ground up towards Queen Anne's Gate. A line of stakes and chains extended in the rear of the troopers, and half way up this line were two inclosures, one for the Royal household, and another for the Alexandra Stand, to which admission was given by tickets procured from the Deputy-Ranger, Major-General E. H. Seymour. The Royal inclosure was separated by a small space of ground from the stand, and both plots were fenced in by hurdles, the saluting-point being in front, so that those in the stand had an excellent view of her Majesty. An inclosure for officers in uniform was also formed near the saluting-point, but had not many occupants. At the extremity of the line to the left, towards Queen Anne's Gate, another large space was inclosed by hurdles for the use of persons on horseback; but, as these were not numerous, the pedestrian public by degrees occupied the ground, with or without permission. Here the border was kept by the men of the 17th Lancers, under Colonel Balders, a regiment which (for some inscrutable reason, known, doubtless, in the Quartermaster-General's Department) was sent all the way from Woolwich—at least, so much of it as lay there—to keep the ground. Brigadier-General White could, no doubt, have easily spared another cavalry regiment from Aldershot had he been ordered to do so. The first battalion of Coldstream Guards, under Colonel Dudley Tarleton, completed the cordon. The ground was so well kept that not even the time-honoured dog strayed within the stakes and hurdles; but in lieu thereof came, in the midst of the firing, suddenly, a herd of deer, and there, fenced all about, they stood facing the Royal Stand, exhibiting such indifference to the novel uproar around them as gave a high opinion of their sagacity and somewhat justified the Scotch witness in favour of a Highland railway, who solemnly averred that the "peasants" were fond of engine-whistling and much enamoured of the sound of trains. The spot selected for the show lies between the Long Walk and Queen Anne's Bide, and comprises nearly 200 acres. The clumps of trees facing the lines of spectators are so numerous and dense that at one time large portions of the volunteers were hidden from view, and it was very difficult, except for those acquainted with the programme of manoeuvres, to guess what was going on. Indeed, the formation bulged through the limits assigned to it, and although the volunteers when formed up in column did not extend much below the front of the Royal Stand, whole brigades were lost sight of far away to the right, or could only be made out through glasses in the interval of the forest shade as soon as the manoeuvres began. Many thousands of persons on foot lined the stake and chain line three and four deep,

and behind them were drawn up, in places three and four deep, carriages, which gave a large idea of the wealth and comfort of the adjoining districts. To reserve spaces on the right and left of the Royal inclosure vehicles were admitted only by ticket, but the rest of the long line was free to all comers.

ARRIVAL OF THE TROOPS.

Windsor welcomed the volunteers with every honour; inscriptions, flags, laurel leaves, and decorations betokened the joy of the inhabitants, who doubtless had many substantial reasons for welcoming England's guardians and the thirsty and hungry people who contributed to the resources of their hearths and homes. In the matter of "provost," be it said, there was notable variation in the disposition of different corps. Some relied upon the resources of the country, giving in exchange fair rates of interest. Others carried filled haversacks. Others, again, had haversacks empty. Some were so laden that it appeared as if they were going to battle with at least three days' cooked provisions. One corps, indeed, fared most sumptuously at their Colonel's expense. Colonel Gardner, of the 6th Tower Hamlets, is not like John Gilpin; no frugal mind has he, as far as his men are concerned; for under a group of trees he gave to his 400 merry men a veal and ham pie weighing 1 lb. and a quart of beer each.

From eleven till four o'clock, or even later, the corps came pouring in irregularly from Windsor and Datchet. The first corps to reach Windsor, we believe, was the Oxford Light Horse, forming a weak troop, under the command of the Hon. W. North, which rode over from Oxford in the morning. They arrived in the High-street just as the Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Arthur, who left Paddington by special train by half-past ten o'clock, were driving to the castle, and they acted as a guard of honour. The advantage lay on the side of the early comers in all respects, for some of the corps had not well shaken into their places before the hour of action was at hand. By five o'clock the force was drawn up, with the cavalry on the right flank in double column. By this time the appearance of volunteers in line is known to all people in Great Britain. Greys in all shades, blues, blacks, reds, browns, neutral tints, give, as we are aware, the host a mottled look not gracious in soldierly eyes. But Lord Clyde used to contend that diversity of uniform was a useful guide to a general in battle, as he could make out where his different corps were, and what they were at.

RECEPTION OF HER MAJESTY.

All the corps had not arrived when the guns posted in front of the left flank of the line opened with Royal salute, and the cortége of the Queen was seen coming down the Long Walk. The public were admitted to each side of the road by order of her Majesty, and she was received by them with great respect. The open carriage in which the Queen and the Royal Princesses were seated was drawn by four greys, and it was preceded by an officer of the household in advance and by a detachment of the Life Guards. Around the carriage and following it came a staff, bright as gold, scarlet, blue, silver, plumes, lace, orders, and ribbons could make it. Then came another body of officers and another detachment of Life Guards. The Royal standard was hoisted as soon as the Queen came in sight. The Royal carriage, as we have said, was first, and then came in file four open carriages of the Royal household, one with Princess Mary of Teck and her ladies, the others occupied principally by ladies in attendance on her Majesty or of her Court. The procession advanced towards the saluting-point, and the Queen was received along the line with uplifted hats and waving handkerchiefs. While her Majesty halted at the saluting-point for a short time noticing the distinguished persons whom she recognised near at hand, the people could point out the Crown Prince of Denmark, the Prince of Wales and his Royal brothers, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Teck, a group of Prussian officers, Sir James Scarlett, Sir Hope Grant, Lord W. Paulet, Sir W. Knollys—in fact, the heads of departments of war, and a number of our most distinguished officers, surrounded by a very large staff from the Horse Guards, War Office, Aldershot, Chatham, and Woolwich.

After awhile, when the insatiable multitude had ogled and longed every one—had observed "how well the Queen was looking," "how sweet" the Princesses were, "how handsome Prince Teck was," "how happy Princess Mary seemed," and noted a number of matters connected with most of the distinguished and unconscious persons under review, the cortége, led by the Queen's carriage, turned back, wheeling to the left, and passed in front of the line of spectators towards the right flank, where the Duke of Manchester, with his handful of Taplow Lancers, Oxford Lights, H.A.C. Lights, and his own sturdy Hunts Light Horse (most of them, we should think, riding 16 stone), was posted, and then, wheeling once more to the right, drove slowly to the extremity of the first line. This was a pretty sight. A great green picture framed by giant trees lighted up by rays tremulous with heat diffused through a veil of thin, warm vapour—inside the frame in the foreground rows of carriages—gay and bright as Mr. Frith's "Derby Day"; then a deep fringe of men and women on foot, well-dressed, orderly, anxious, quiet; then the slate and chain; and outside, sweltering in their armour, two and two, booted, gauntletted, helmeted, and cuirassed, the men of the Life Guards. Carry your eye up each side of the frame, and you see the gay beauteous of Lancers and Hussars fretting the dark edge of the multitude. Look up or straight across—for the picture is lying flat, and is closed in (like the "Velasquez Hunt" in the National Gallery)—and you see the volunteers lying in ordered mass as clouds do at sea on stormy sunsets. And now, flashing and sparkling as the light bursts in, there rolls across the green in front of this sombre mass a cavalcade of horsemen, and the Royal carriages twinkle past the line, wheel round, and with their followings and surroundings are lost till they emerge at the other end. Then they at last return in the order in which they came to the saluting-point, which is marked by the Royal standard, too lazy in the summer evening to flaunt at full length.

THE MARCH PAST AND MANOEUVRES.

It was 5.30 p.m. when the march past began, beginning from the right of the first line. The force, which numbered about 27,000 men, consisted of a body of cavalry, twenty-four guns, and four divisions of infantry, and was under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir J. Y. Scarlett, K.C.B. We cannot pretend to criticise corps; but certainly the strongest, best appointed, and one of the best drilled, if not the best, was the Robin Hoods, from Nottingham, who came on the ground, they said, 750 strong, and marched admirably, headed by their own bearded pioneers, whom Arabian perfumery could not improve. The old favourites held their own. Lord Elcho's turned out rather weak, but marched like the London Scottish. "Tom Brown's" corps went by in capital style; so did the little "Artists" corps, full of life, colour, and up to a brush with any enemy. Lord Donegall seemed to consult quantity rather than quality, we thought, in the London Irish; and, if the Inns of Court were good, we have seen them better, and certainly in larger form. Warde's Londoners were in force and in capital order. When the last corps had passed it was 7.20; the march had consumed more than one hour and a half. Then General Scarlett and his staff galloped to the left flank of the line, which was forming. Staff officers and orderlies began to fly about. The Duke and his staff and groups of generals and staff appeared on the field in front of the spectators on the right. The volunteers were seen moving here and there, their arms shining out in unexpected places, and the ladies became anxious lest they should not appear again. Presently the Duke of Manchester's Horse came out boldly and executed a charge to the front parallel with the line of spectators. The horsemen may have been furious, but they were not fast, and it was hard to imagine they had ever intended to form a compact body. They were followed by a line of skirmishers, who advanced with more caution and tardiness than was needful, but who still managed to get a good long way in advance of their supports. They, too, advanced in line at right angles to the spectators, and when they had got half way to the Royal inclosure halted and opened fire in front. At this moment some artillery from under the trees on their right flank opened, with what object no

mere spectator on the right of the ground could divine. The supports and the reserve of the force on the right, however, moved up after some pauses, the skirmishers tumbled in; then began a heavy fire of musketry which one would compare, very disadvantageously, with the Snider torrent-like roll; and all seemed to be going on well till of a sudden out rushed a line of skirmishers from under the trees at right angles to the conquering force, and began to fire away, not at it, but right at the line of spectators and the Royal stand. Then came out supports, and the force on the right fell back—nay, formed squares—and was vexed by surreptitious guns, which opened on it from unexpected places. All the while there were thousands of men behind them lying down on their arms, and not firing a shot. "The only thing I could always make out in a battle," said the old Prince of Ligne, "was which side ran away. Why they did it I never could understand." A field-day without a clue is equally puzzling. Indeed, if the volunteer brigadiers and colonels were obeying their orders, and if the divisional generals were carrying out the plan of manœuvres laid down by Sir James Scarlett, it would have been well to furnish the public with a key to it. Artillery and musketry were busy in the front, and all over the ground. Sometimes, after a silence which made one think the field-day was over, came a volley or a platoon fire from different spots, and dropping shots were audible all around. At last there was a general advance in line, the bands played "God Save the Queen," the volunteers cheered loudly, and even raised their shakos on their rifles; and her Majesty most graciously acknowledged by repeated bows these demonstrations of their loyalty. Thus ended the review.

IRREGULARITIES AND CASUALTIES.

Some of the corps, we heard, who had not been engaged and had not fired off many rounds, got rid of their cartridges at discretion in the Home Park, and incurred the displeasure of the highest personages. And at the close, we regret to say, there was deplorable irregularity and confusion, created by volunteers rushing for the trains without regard to the order of their corps, and thus impeding those who maintained formation and had a right to transit. General Lindsay, however, will have had a good opportunity of seeing what evils are to be guarded against in the volunteer army, and it is to be hoped he will find a remedy.

The review did not terminate without several casualties and one death. At nine o'clock on Saturday evening, as the volunteers were returning from the Great Park, Mr. John Dunn, oil and colour merchant, Cannon-street, fell from the ranks of the City of London Rifle Brigade just after his company had entered Park-street from the Long Walk, and expired in a few minutes. Mr. Peed, of the first company 21st North Kent Rifles, while about to cross a drain, was jostled by a comrade, and in falling sustained several injuries, consisting of a partly sprained and contused hip. He was at once attended to by Mr. Buckle, the house surgeon of the Windsor infirmary. Another volunteer, Mr. Moore, of the Queen's (Westminsters), sprained his ankle, but was able to leave the infirmary. There were several cases of fainting on the ground, which, considering the heat, was not very remarkable.

THE CLAPHAM JUNCTION ESTATE.—The first portion of the Bellingbroke Park property having been entirely disposed of, the second allotment took place on the 24th inst., at the offices of the Conservative Land Society, and a large sale thereof was effected. The competition for special plots was so great that as high as £50 was paid for a right of choice to secure priority of selection. Some notion of the high prices which suburban land will fetch near a railway station is afforded when it is stated that the 113 plots sold on the first allotment ranged in price from £58 up to £1000 per plot, and plots on the second portion were sold from £38 up to £410 each.

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHS BILL.—The Select Committee on the Electric Telegraph Bill has been nominated as follows:—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Goschen, Sir Frederick Heygate, Mr. Leeman, Mr. Charles Turner, Mr. Norwood, and five members to be added by the Committee of Selection. The "instruction" to the Committee is to inquire: 1, whether it is desirable that the transmission of messages for the public should become a legal monopoly in the Post Office; 2, whether it should be left to the discretion of the Postmaster-General to make special arrangements for the transmission of messages or news at reduced rates; 3, what securities should be taken for ensuring the secrecy of messages transmitted through the Post Office; 4, what arrangements should be made for the working of submarine cables to foreign countries; and, 5, to hear such telegraph and railway companies and proprietors as shall by petition, on or before the 26th inst., have prayed to be heard by themselves, their counsel or agents, against such of the matters referred to the Committee as affect their particular interests.

"**THE PRINCESS OF CUMBERLAND.**"—The claim of Mrs. Ryves to be "Princess of Cumberland" came before the House of Lords on Monday, on appeal from the Divorce Court. Mrs. Ryves, the plaintiff, who is over seventy years of age, claimed to be the lawful heir to the crown of England, as being lineal descendant of the Duke of Cumberland, the son of George II. The appellant has established her legitimacy as the daughter of Olive Serres, but complains of that part of the decree issued by the Court below which declared that her mother was not the legitimate daughter of the Duke of Cumberland. Her case was that, immediately after the death of George III., her mother assumed the honour, title, and dignity of a Princess of the blood Royal; and that, the certificate of her birth having been authenticated, she was acknowledged by George IV. in Council as "the only legitimate daughter of his late uncle, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland." But just as Mr. Bell, the Princess's counsel, was on the point of selecting for her a residence suitable to her rank, he was spirited away by the Duke of York, who was personally afraid of her coming forward with papers affecting himself or his family, and had therefore determined that no assistance should be given to her by either the King or the Ministry. The case was barely opened when the Attorney-General urged that, as no bill of exceptions had been tendered nor a motion for a new trial made, the appeal could not lie. The objection was fatal, and their Lordships dismissed the appeal with costs.

RECEPTION OF TROOPS FROM ABYSSINIA.—Immediately it was known on Monday morning that the 3rd Dragoon Guards, from Abyssinia, had arrived in Portsmouth Harbour, and would reach Winchester by the half-past five o'clock train, every preparation was made to give them a right hearty reception. The streets were decorated with flags, the cathedral bells rang, and people began to assemble in the streets before three o'clock. The Mayor of the city and other members of the Corporation met and drew up the following address:—"To the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Men of her Majesty's 3rd Dragoon Guards,—We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and citizens of the city of Winchester, gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded by your arrival in our ancient city most heartily to congratulate you upon your return to your native country after the arduous campaign in which you have been engaged, and to express, on behalf of our fellow-citizens, the admiration universally excited by the energy, endurance, and skill exhibited by the army in Abyssinia, resulting in the complete attainment of the objects of the expedition, and in a victory which will be an enduring record in the annals of the British Army. Given under our common seal," &c. The presentation of the address was made by the Mayor at the railway station, where he was attended by the Aldermen and other members of the Town Council, in their robes of office. After the presentation the men marched, headed by the brass band of the Rifle Dépot Battalion, through the principal streets on their way to the barracks.

CHEATING A PRINCE.—A lawsuit, brought by the Prince of Orange against a man named Vandendale, to obtain the annulment of the purchase of a farm called L'Ermitage, in Champagne, and the return of bills to the amount of 310,000f. given in payment, has recently been tried before the Imperial Court of Metz (Moselle). The facts of the case were these:—The Prince, two years back, being in want of money, bought, on credit, the estate in question for the price above stated, of which the Prince's agent, named Collier, was to receive a present of 25,000f. for his aid in bringing about the transaction. The object of the Prince was to raise a loan on the property, and an application was made to the Crédit Foncier Company and to different bankers, but the negotiations fell to the ground, because the purchaser, for want of means, had not paid the registration dues. The Prince, having failed in his intention, had no further use for the farm, and attempted to obtain the annulment of the sale on the grounds of fraud. The Tribunal of Vouziers, before which the affair first came, ordered an expert to fix the value of the property, and which was estimated at only 50,000f. Vandendale, a Belgian, and formerly beerseller in Paris, proved that the estate had cost him 120,000f.; and his counsel, M. Jules Favre, argued that the Prince had not been obliged to buy the place, but, having done so, was bound to fulfil his engagements, adding that, had the Prince been able to raise money on the farm, as he intended, the present action would never have been brought. M. Allou, advocate for the other party, replied that the sale was a shameful deception, in which a low user had endeavoured to take advantage of the inexperience of the Prince; and the Court, taking that view of the case, decided that there had been fraudulent collusion between Collier and Vandendale, and ordered the annulment of the sale.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The prefects of the different departments, it is said, will successively proceed to Paris early in July to make a report respecting the state of public opinion upon all questions affecting a general election to the Legislative Body.

ITALY.

In the Chamber of Deputies on Monday General Menabrea congratulated the House upon the assiduity and intelligence which it had displayed in the discussion and adoption of the important financial measures proposed by the Ministry. The Chamber was entitled to the gratitude of the nation, and deserved repose, but measures of administration and reform were still required to complete its work. From twenty important bills the Government recommended four as most urgent—namely, those relating to an improved system of the drawing up of the state accounts, communal and provincial reform, the collection of taxes, and judicial reform. It was necessary to pass these measures before the adjournment of the Session.

Austrian Commissioners are shortly expected at Florence to resume the negotiations relative to the restitution of the Venetian archives to Italy.

The Italian papers publish a despatch from General Menabrea to the Marquis di Bella Caraccioli, Italian Minister at the Court of St. Petersburg, stating that the Italian Government adheres in principle to the proposal of Russia respecting explosive bullets, subject to its acceptance by all the Powers.

ROME.

In an allocution just delivered by the Pope, his Holiness condemns as abominable the civil marriage law and the other laws providing for religious freedom lately passed by the Austrian Reichsrath, and declares them to be null and void.

At the Vatican they are preparing for the 29th inst. a syllabus, which will contain the programme to be submitted at the Ecumenical Council convoked for Dec. 8 next. The main point to be discussed will be the elevation of the temporal power to the state of dogma for the Catholic Church. As to the Catholic tuition and education, especially for women, a mode of supervision will be also discussed. All the Catholic States will be represented at that great council. The question of the presidency of the council is much discussed in diplomatic circles. Formerly it belonged *de jure* to the Roman Emperors, now Austria and France contend for it.

PRUSSIA.

The King of Prussia has closed another of his Parliaments (the North German). His Majesty, in his speech, reviewed the results of the Session, and especially alluded to the sanction of the loan for the development of the federal navy and for the completion of the coast defences under the control of Prussia. The speech further mentioned the laws (passed by the Parliament as a supplement to the laws upon the freedom of domicile) removing the police restrictions upon the right of contracting marriage, the laws abolishing imprisonment for debt and closing gambling-houses, the sanction of the different postal treaties and of the pensions granted to the soldiers of the former Schleswig-Holstein army, the regulation of weights and measures, the equalisation of the taxes, and the passage of the treaty article for the entry of Mecklenburg and Lübeck into the Zollverein. His Majesty concluded his speech as follows:—"I dismiss you to your homes with the full confidence that the fruits of your labours will thrive, under the blessing of peace, both here and throughout Germany."

The King, on his way to Hildesheim, has just visited Hanover. It was feared that his Majesty's reception might not be a favourable one; but we hear that nothing of an unpleasant character happened during his stay in that city.

AUSTRIA.

The laws passed by the Austrian Reichsrath relative to the conversion of the State debt, the increase of the tax on lottery prizes, the sale of State domains, and the withdrawal of twenty-five millions of the floating debt, have received the Imperial sanction, and have been published in the official gazette.

The Emperor has paid a visit to Prague, and at all the places at which his Majesty stopped on his journey he was received with enthusiasm by the authorities, consular delegations, and the crowds which everywhere assembled.

At Wednesday's sitting of the Lower House, Deputy Sturm asked what course the Government intended to adopt with regard to the manifestations made by some of the Bishops against the "confessional laws." The Minister-President replied that it was incumbent upon the Government to see that the laws which had been sanctioned were carried out, and to make the necessary preparations for that purpose. Should fitting respect and obedience be refused to the laws, the Government would take the necessary steps to provide for their authority being maintained unimpaired. The Minister further announced that the Emperor had determined to prorogue the Reichsrath provisionally until Sept. 1 next.

SERVIA.

Prince Milan, nephew of the late Prince Michael and his appointed successor, arrived at Belgrade on Tuesday, and was most warmly received by the authorities and the public.

The elections to the Skuptschina are now finished. The greatest order and tranquillity have prevailed, and the number of voters has been large. The vote is believed to be favourable to the choice of Prince Milan as successor to the throne. Addresses of adherence to the Government continue to come in from communes, the militia, and bodies of troops.

Prince Alexander Karageorgevitch has published a declaration expressing his sympathy for the late Prince Michael of Servia, and denouncing as calumnies the reports that have been circulated respecting his complicity in the assassination.

THE UNITED STATES.

The President having vetoed the bill for admitting Arkansas to representation in Congress, the House of Representatives has passed the bill over the Presidential veto by 110 votes against 31. A similar vote has been come to in the Senate. The bill is now therefore law.

The Senate has passed a resolution requesting the President to intercede with Queen Victoria for the release of Father M'Mahon, the Fenian prisoner in Canada.

The House of Representatives has released Mr. Woolley, whom they put in durance vile for refusing to give evidence to incriminate the Senators of bribery in the impeachment trial.

Several Democratic and Radical members of the Board of Aldermen at Washington have denied the legality of each other's elections. The Radical registrar refused to recognise the claims of the Democratic disputants, and declared the Radical candidates to be duly elected. The Mayor, whose election the Democrats had disputed, has taken legal proceedings against the registrar. Great excitement existed, and it was feared a riot would occur. The Radical aldermen have taken forcible possession of the Councilmen's Chamber.

MEXICO.

According to advices received in New York from Mexico, a revolt had occurred at Querétaro in favour of Santa Anna, and other disturbances in favour of Negrete and Diaz. The latter has been removed from his command of a division of the army.

HAYTI.

Advices from Hayti state that Salnave had been defeated by the rebels, but say nothing of his reported assassination. All communication with the south of Hayti was cut off. Salnave, with a few followers, was in Fort Bigoton, and had declared the town in a state of siege, threatening to set it on fire if the inhabitants did not assist him to repel the rebels. Her Majesty's ship *Phoebe* was guarding British interests. Her Majesty's ship *Royalist* had got off the rocks near Port-au-Prince.

THE CITY MEETING ON THE IRISH CHURCH.

MONDAY'S meeting in Guildhall on the Irish Church question afforded a foretaste of the violence amid which the next general election is likely to be conducted. Although the meeting was called for two o'clock, as early as between ten and eleven people began to flock into the hall, and for two hours before the chair was taken the room was densely crowded, and great uproar prevailed, which, when the proceedings fairly began, was increased to an extent completely preventing any of the speakers being heard beyond the front of the hustings. From beginning to end the factions in the body of the hall maintained an unseemly and incessant clamour, and the result was that the object of the meeting, so far as free discussion of the prevailing feeling of the citizens went, was rendered completely abortive; and the Lord Mayor, who presided, and the speakers on both sides, were obliged to speak in the ears of the reporters. A resolution in favour of the disestablishment of the Irish Church was proposed by Sir John Lubbock, and seconded by Mr. Sheriff M'Arthur. An amendment was then moved by Mr. H. Greig, affirming that "the attack on the Irish branch of the United Church of England and Ireland endangers the supremacy of the Crown, the Protestant institutions of the country, and the rights of private property," and this was seconded by Alderman Sir William Rose, during whose speech the uproar reached its climax. A placard with the word "Amendment" in large letters printed on it was exhibited by some person on the platform, and on its being handed to Sir William he first placed it in the front of his hat and then on his breast, when some one near him made a snatch at it, and in an instant there was a regular free fight round the chair. Sir William Rose made a desperate struggle to retain possession of the placard, while his assailants were equally energetic in their endeavours to get it from him. Blows were delivered; Sir W. Rose got one or two in the chest, and the Lord Mayor, who was completely mobbed, received a heavy blow in the stomach. When the police saw his Lordship was in danger, they made a rush to his rescue. His Lordship threatened to give Mr. Beales into custody for assaulting Sir W. Rose; but subsequently Mr. Crawford, M.P., informed the Lord Mayor that he would make an affidavit that it was not Mr. Beales who assaulted Sir William Rose, and upon that assurance his Lordship withdrew the charge. It is understood that an explanation afterwards took place between Sir William and the president of the Reform League, and the two gentlemen shook hands over the matter. The noise and confusion now became so intense, not only in the body of the hall, but on the hustings, that all attempt at the exercise of authority on the part of the Lord Mayor became useless, and his Lordship, doubtless feeling that the dignity of his office was in some degree compromised by remaining where his authority was ignored, retired from the chair without putting either the original motion or the amendment to a show of hands. But, notwithstanding his absence, and no one taking the chair in his stead, speeches were made by Mr. Crawford, M.P.; Mr. Goschen, M.P.; Mr. Alderman Lawrence, M.P.; Mr. Vernon Harcourt, and other gentlemen, to the vast multitude assembled, by whom, however, in consequence of the noise, not a syllable could have been heard. It is said that the Lord Mayor was struck by someone while endeavouring to maintain order before retiring from the hall. A blow with a stick was certainly aimed at the head of Alderman Sir W. Rose by a man on the hustings while he was engaged in the altercation about the placard, but it fell short of the mark. Altogether, the scene was disgraceful from first to last. The Liberal papers assert that the hall was packed by a large body of "longshoremen" and other "roughs" in the interest of the Conservative party.

THE NEW ALLOTMENT OF SEATS.

THE general election, to which both parties are so anxiously looking forward, will be taken under circumstances which have materially altered the political map of England and Wales. Seven boroughs have been disfranchised on account of the sparsity of their populations, four have been extinguished as a punishment for the corruption which was so openly practised within them, and thirty-five, each now returning two members, have been deprived of one, because neither of them contains 10,000 inhabitants. The total number of places thus dealt with in the way of disfranchisement and deprivation is forty-six, and the seats of eighty-seven members are thereby affected. It is somewhat remarkable that the balance of party should have been so evenly maintained in making those changes, for of the eighty-seven hon. gentlemen who have such a personal interest in the alterations, forty-four are Conservatives and forty-three are Liberals.

The following sixteen boroughs are now represented exclusively by Conservatives, and in them there will be a net loss of eighteen seats to the Ministerial party:—Chippingham, Cirencester, Cuckermouth, Dartmouth, Devizes, Harwich, Huntingdon, Leominster, Ludlow, Lyme Regis, Maldon, Marlow, Stamford, Tewkesbury, Thetford, and Yarmouth. There are also sixteen boroughs which during the present Parliament have been represented exclusively by Liberals, and in them, by way of counterpoise to the eighteen which will be lost to the Conservatives, the Liberals will lose precisely the same number. These places are:—Arundel, Ashburton, Bodmin, Bridport, Lancaster, Lewes, Malton, Marlborough, Poole, Reigate, Richmond, Ripon, Tavistock, Totnes, Windsor, and Wycombe. It should, however, be explained that four of these seats—two at Lancaster, one at Reigate, and one at Totnes—have been lost to the Liberals for more than two years past, while the two members for Yarmouth have retained their seats throughout the same period. The nominal loss of eighteen is thus reduced to fourteen, while in the Ministerial loss there can be no possible reduction.

So much for the places in which both parties have such an especial interest. There are fourteen others in which the representation is now divided, and in these, of course, it is unsafe to speculate as to what the gains or losses may be. Honiton and Wells are altogether disfranchised. The remaining twelve, in which either the Liberal or the Conservative member of Parliament must withdraw or be beaten, are Andover, Buckingham, Bridgnorth, Chichester, Dorchester, Evesham, Guildford, Hertford, Knaresborough, Lichfield, Lyngton, and Newport.

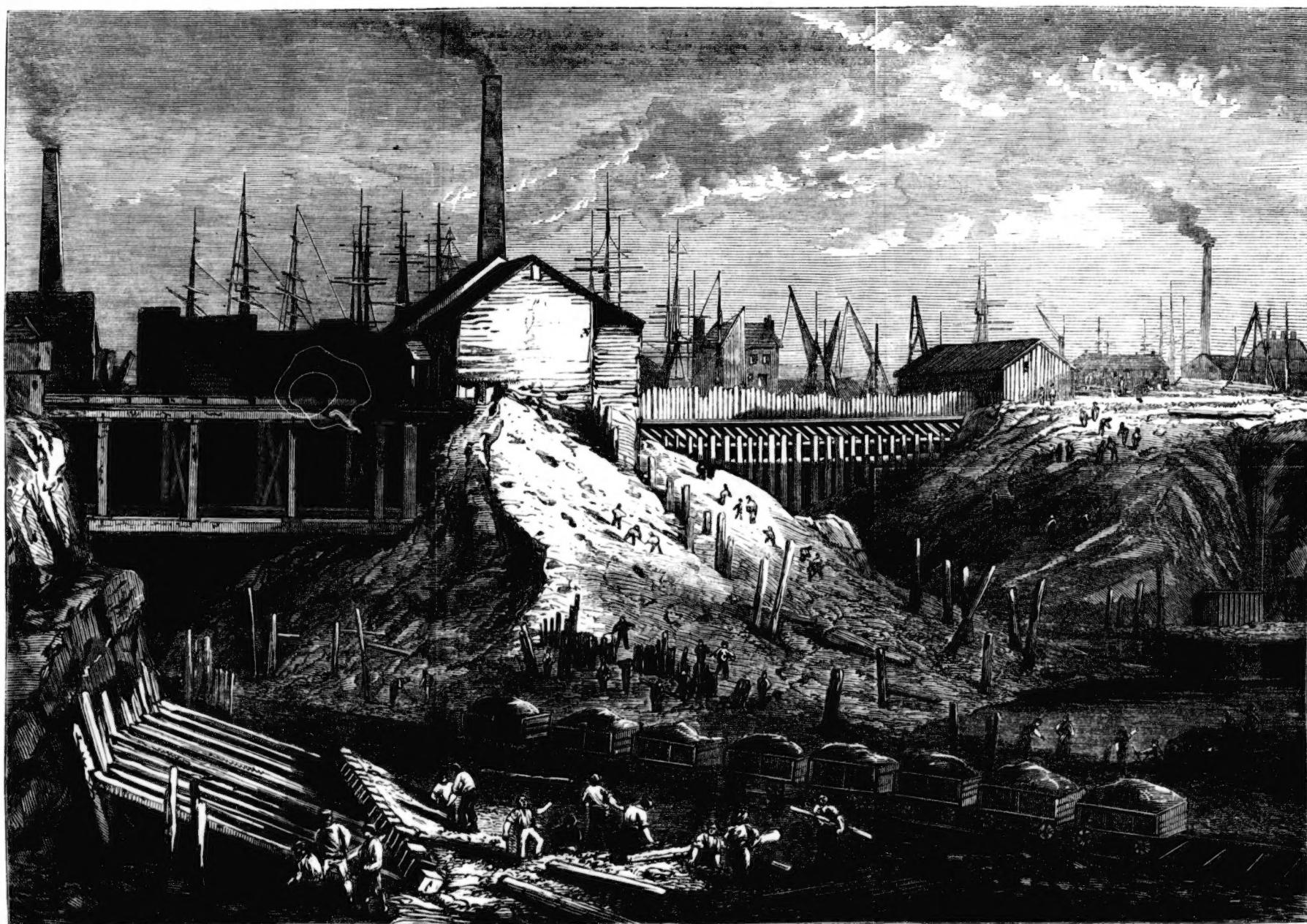
Six of the boroughs which have been dealt with now return as many members of the Government. The Lord Advocate of Scotland sits for Thetford; Sir John Hay, a Lord of the Admiralty, for Stamford; Lord Henry Lennox, Secretary to the Admiralty, for Chichester; the Attorney-General for Andover; the Earl of Mayo, Chief Secretary for Ireland, for Cockermouth; and Mr. Whitmore, one of the assistant whips, for Bridgnorth. The Lord Advocate will be bound to leave Thetford, because it has been disfranchised.

The new Act will affect the following boroughs, in which aristocratic influences have more or less prevailed:—Arundel, the Duke of Norfolk; Ashburton, Lord Clinton; Bridgnorth, the family of Whitmore; Chichester, the Duke of Richmond; Chippenham, Sir John Need; Cirencester, the family of Bathurst; Hertford, the Marquis of Salisbury and Earl Cowper; Huntingdon, the Earl of Sandwich; Lichfield, the Earl of Lichfield; Ludlow, Earl Powis; Malton, Earl Fitzwilliam; Marlborough, Marquis of Ailesbury; Marlow, Colonel Peers Williams; Poole, the family of Guest; Richmond, the Earl of Zetland; Ripon, Earl De Grey and Ripon; Stamford, the Marquis of Exeter; Tavistock, the Duke of Bedford; Thetford, the Duke of Grafton and Lord Ashburton; Totnes, the Duke of Somerset.

The certain losses to both parties having been indicated, the question is naturally suggested as to what are likely to be the gains. Here, however, a host of circumstances have to be taken into consideration. The political complexion of the new constituencies, the effects of the minority vote, local politics, the personal influence of candidates yet to be announced—these and many others must prevent an accurate estimate from being formed thus early in the day. The liberal gains in the counties in 1865 lead to the hope that many of the twenty-five new county seats may be filled by supporters of Mr. Gladstone. The new boroughs of Chelsea and Hackney will scarcely return Conservatives, nor will the University of London. Of the additional members which have been given to



THE THAMES SOUTHERN EMBANKMENT NEAR LAMBETH PALACE.



EXCAVATIONS FOR ENLARGING THE SOUTH DOCK, WEST INDIA DOCKS, LONDON.

Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Merthyr Tydfil, and Salford, three at least are likely to be Liberals. Then there are the new boroughs of Burnley, Darlington, Dewsbury, Gravesend, Hartlepool, Middlesborough, Stalybridge, Stockton, and Wednesbury, in which the Liberals may fairly look for a majority. Add to these at least five out of the seven new seats which have been given to Scotland, make a little allowance for the energy with which the Roman Catholic hierarchy will commend the cause to their flocks in Ireland, and it is not difficult to see that the Liberal majority will be one of a very decided character.

THE THAMES SOUTHERN EMBANKMENT.

We have on more than one occasion published descriptive details of the Thames Southern Embankment, and it is consequently unnecessary to say more, in connection with the accompanying Engraving, than that it represents the works in the vicinity of Lambeth Palace. As our readers are aware, the portion of the embankment immediately above Westminster Bridge is already completed, and St. Thomas's Hospital in course of construction. The works on the other portions of the southern embankment are, we believe, progressing in a satisfactory manner.

NEW SOUTH DOCK, WEST INDIA DOCKS.

MOST extensive works have been going on for the last twelve months at the old south dock, West India Docks. The dock was formerly a mere canal through the Isle of Dogs, and was used principally for timber; but the great demand for dock-room for vessels of large burden induced the directors to enlarge the south dock, and thus relieve the pressure that existed in the export East India Dock, and give greater accommodation to the increasing class of vessels that are now built of large tonnage, and enable them to readily and rapidly discharge their cargoes into lighters.



"WAITING FOR DINNER."—(FROM A PICTURE BY A. SIEGERT.)

alongside. There are to be two entrances to the dock, thus giving greater facility for ingress and egress. A range of warehouses will be built for the storage of goods, and a new lock made at the Blackwall entrance, to admit ships of the heaviest tonnage. The water space will be about 35 acres at present, but it is intended still further to increase the area.

Our Engraving gives a view of the excavations going on at the Blackwall entrance, and the works in progress for the construction of the new dock. Mr. Hawkshaw is the engineer, and Mr. George Wyse the contractor, for the works.

"WAITING FOR DINNER."

THE picture from which our Engraving is taken is one of that modern German school which depends for its interest on the representation of scenes of common life among the humbler classes. Not

that the ancient lady at the spinning-wheel is necessarily a member of that class because of her occupation, for in old-fashioned German towns spinning and knitting continue to be the feminine employments of old, middle-aged, and even of young ladies. Knitting and the finer sorts of needlework are recreation which go on even at theatres, and, for aught we would declare to the contrary, perhaps at church. It is quite certain that German ladies would listen with greater complacency to a long sermon if their hands could be occupied with the polished, deftly-moving needles. It must be a difficult matter to imbue the young girls with their first love for this monotonous exercise, which, while it occupies the fingers, leaves "meditation fancy free," and fills up the gaps in conversation (if there are any gaps in the lively gossip of the buxom German ladies) as the puffing of the big pipe does in the case of the adult males of the family.

We have altogether lost the spinning-wheel in England. One

was used, until very lately, by an old lady in a village near Darley, close to the great cotton factory which has helped to abolish the tedious process; but we suspect she was only encouraged to continue the work as an awful example of life in the days before machinery. In the more primitive, and vastly more conservative, society to be found in German villages, however, things have longer life, simple customs are observed, and old ways are harder to supersede. People are very simple and childlike there, even in their amusements, and the ancient dame and her grandchild come somehow closer together in thought and feeling than they do elsewhere, because old and young join in the same innocent amusements and unexciting employments. In "Waiting for Dinner," notwithstanding the suggestion of hungry penance imposed on the too conscious group around the grandame, the characteristics of this old-fashioned condition are very happily translated; and the picture is one which appeals to us by the universal language which belongs to true art.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 337.

LOOK ON THIS PICTURE.

THE debates on the Scotch Reform Bill—now, happily, gone to the Upper House—though rather more lively than Scotch debates usually are, were conducted, after the manner of Scotchmen, with decorum. Scotch members are, all of them and at all times, decorous. If they do not flash out wit and sarcasm, and sometimes are rather dull, they rarely quarrel. True, Mr. Ellice, some time ago, when the Reform Bill was under discussion, applied the word “dodge” to some transactions; but when the Lord Advocate complained of the word, the hon. member for St. Andrew's leaped up and said, “I should no more think of charging my learned friend with dodging than I should charge myself.” It was a slip of the tongue, this offensive word; and Mr. Ellice, when he saw that the Lord Advocate was stung, promptly drew out the sting and applied an anodyne to the wound, like a true gentleman, as his venerable father was before him. Then the Scottish members are so national, and clannish, and canny. They like to settle their national legislation, moreover, without the interference of the English or Irish; and so, when an important bill is introduced, they rarely fight and wrangle over it in the House; but hold a conference in the tea-room or library, and settle disputed clauses on the give-and-take principle—the Government giving way a little to save part, the Opposition making concessions lest they should lose all. It is a very common thing to see several pages of amendments to a Scotch bill, and the uninitiated think that many nights will be required to discuss them; but, lo! when the bill gets into Committee we see it run through almost in silence: all has been quietly settled behind the scenes. Then there is another characteristic of Scotch members which it would be wrong not to notice. They can trust one another. When an agreement has been made in private, they know that the law officers of the Crown or others may be trusted to carry it out. Latterly there was a bill before the House—we really forget what it was—to which there was appended a host of amendments threatening an expenditure of hours of time in Committee; and when it was called on, after midnight, we said to ourselves, “That bill will surely not be pushed on at this hour, with no Scotch members present?” But the House went into Committee upon it, and it was through a quarter of an hour. All had been arranged in private, and such was the confidence in the Lord Advocate that scarcely a Scotch member thought it worth while to stop to see the arrangement fulfilled.

AND ON THIS.

But why write thus about Scotch members and their ways just now—it is apropos to nothing that has happened during the last week? Well, our object is to bring out in forcible contrast the ways and characteristics of the Hibernian members, who, on Thursday, the 19th, had a whole night to themselves on the Parliamentary stage. That is why we have presented to our readers a sketch of the Scotch members and their doings. And now, our readers having looked at that picture, let them look at this. Scotland, at one point of its coast, almost touches Ireland; but between the inhabitants of “Oireland,” as the Irish call it—the true old Celtic Hibernian—and the inhabitants of Scotland, there is a very wide gulf indeed. Scotch debates are always, as we have said, decorous, quiet, and orderly; and yet we know that Scotchmen can be angry. “Scotch blood stirred” is a phrase one often hears. Yes; but the characteristic of the nation is self-control; and most of the Scotch members would no more think of allowing their passions to break forth in the House than they would of brawling in a church. But Irish debates, whatever may be the subject, are mostly noisy, turbulent wrangles, especially in Committee. Decorous would be the least appropriate epithet we could apply to them. What a brawling wrangle was that debate on Thursday night last week on the Irish Reform Bill! and yet, the distribution of seats clauses having been taken out of the bill, there was very little to fight about. An Irish member, somewhat new to the House, told us that the bill would be through Committee by ten o'clock. We, knowing Irishmen and their ways, ventured to doubt this prophecy; and we were right. It was nearly one in the morning when the chairman left the chair, and on the paper there were left two pages of amendments to be moved when the proceedings of the Committee shall be reported to the House. Then, again, Irish members rarely settle their business behind the scenes. They have tried to do so, but have never succeeded. They, when they have met in the tea-room, have wrangled there as they do in the House; and if by chance they come to agreement, it is ten to one that the compact will break down so soon as the debate begins in the House. Some years ago an Irish member, now no longer in Parliament, came out of the House raging like a fury. “What's the matter?” some one asked. “What's the matter!” he replied; “why, it was all settled that I should bring on a question (what the question was we forgot) to-night, and sure I did it; and when I sat down not a man of them all would get up to support me.” This, no doubt, is an extreme case. It is, though, a case in point. Such a thing never could have happened to a Scotch member. If an assembly of Scotch members had deputed one of their number to bring a Scotch grievance before the House, the whole assembly would have supported him “shouther to shouther,” as the phrase is, like Sir Colin Campbell's brigade in the Crimea. Here is another instance of how Irish members treat one another in the House. It occurred on that very Thursday night. Dr. Brady had given notice to move a clause enacting that votes should be taken in Ireland by ballot. When the time came for the Doctor to move, he thought the hour was too late to discuss the subject, and, after some wrangling talk, he moved to postpone his clause and bring it up on the report; but Sir John Gray, “an honourable friend” of the Doctor, dissatisfied with this arrangement, took the affair out of his friend's hands, and at once moved the clause—albeit he had given no notice of such a motion. Well might the Doctor say that the course taken by his honourable friend was “most unusual.” And it was a most unusual course; a course which we venture to assert nobody but an Irishman would have taken. Well, then, is there no faith in Irishmen? Heaven forbid that we should say so. If we were to say this, what a storm of execrations we should bring upon our heads! But, apart from that, we do not believe it. They are as honourable as other people. The cause of this want of cohesion is their natural volatility, arising from excessive impulsiveness. Scotchmen naturally gravitate towards each other; Irishmen seem naturally to fly off from each other. The centrifugal force overmasters the centripetal. Sometimes it would seem that some Irishmen not only cannot trust their fellows, but cannot trust themselves, as the following anecdote will show: “Will you pair?” said the whip to an Irish member now gone. “No. Sure, I never paired but once, and thin I broke my pair.” But, though we could illustrate this subject further, we must, for want of space, pass on.

CAPTAIN GROSVENOR FORCED TO VOTE.

There was a scene in the House on Thursday week which rarely occurs. After the division had taken place upon Mr. Fawcett's amendment—amendment to take away from the trumpery borough of Portarlington, with its 106 electors, its member, to give one to the Queen's University—we had this scene. The division, as we have said, had been taken, but the numbers had not been declared, and the doors were still locked, when Captain Grosvenor, John Stuart Mill's colleague for Westminster, stepped up to the table, and this colloquy passed between him and the Chairman of Committees. Captain Grosvenor: “Sir, I did not hear the question, and therefore have not voted.” Chairman: “The question is that this clause stand part of the bill.” Captain Grosvenor: “Then I shall not be prepared to vote at all.” Chairman: “The hon. member, having had the question stated to him, is bound to give his vote.” Captain Grosvenor: “I shall, then, support the collective wisdom of the House, and vote with the majority against the bill.” We have given this scene without the usual parenthetical interpolations of cheering, loud laughter, &c.; but there was, as may be imagined, plenty of merriment. It is, as will be seen, absolutely necessary according to law, that a member should hear the question put. And this is logical enough. How can a member know how to vote unless he is aware what the subject is upon which he is about to vote? So rigorous is this rule in theory, that if it can be proved that a member did vote, albeit he did not hear the question put—he being wandering in the division lobby at the time—his vote is expunged. There are several cases of this sort upon the books. Do, then, members always hear the question put before they vote? Certainly not, we should say. Take a case which often occurs. Some 500 or 600 members are in the House, or about the premises, waiting for a division; one half the members about the premises perhaps, but not in the House. The division bells ring, the absentees come rushing up in columns. The majority of these get into the House and hear the question put; but a large minority cannot get in, because, as we all know, the House will not hold all the members, and, though they get as near the door as they can, and crane their necks over the shoulders of the crowd, they cannot, most of them, hear a word of the question. What, then, in such case is done? Nothing. They did what they could to hear the question, and how can a man do more? The law does not require impossibilities. But if a man does not hear the question, how does he know how to vote? Well, on great and simple issues, of course, there is no difficulty; but frequently questions arise on which, to those who have not heard the debate, there is difficulty. But, then, are there not always whips at the door, like friendly hand-posts, to point the way? or, if these fail, you can, you know, follow your party. No doubt, members do frequently vote without understanding the question; but what matters? they have voted with their party. A humorous Irish member was once heard to say, “Faith! I never feel so noisy in my mind as when I don't know what I'm voting about.”

THE COUNT-OUT ON FRIDAY WEEK.

Certain members who had business on the paper on Friday week were naturally very angry about the count-out that night—Mr. Monk, the member for Gloucester, for one. The second order of the day was his Revenue Officers Disabilities Removal Bill (bill to enable revenue officers to vote at elections). This bill is a great pet of Mr. Monk, who has triumphantly cracked over it a good deal. In all probability it will never leave the House alive. But, if it should, the Lords will certainly ruthlessly throw it out. Nevertheless, Mr. Monk, having hatched it, thinks very highly of it. Every hen, you know, thinks her own goose is a swan. Mr. Monk, then, was angry—exceedingly angry; and on Monday night vented his anger in the House. Mr. Fawcett, too, had business on the paper touching Trinity College, Dublin; and he also was vexed. But on Monday night he wisely consumed his own smoke. As much has been said about this count-out, let an eyewitness describe what he saw and heard. The House met at four, as usual. There was so small a muster of members that there was some difficulty in getting the requisite forty. The House, though, was made; and, having made it, several members went away. Their horses were at the door of Westminster Hall, the weather was glorious, and the temptation to have a ride in the park was irresistible. An honourable member of the Liberal party, too good a benefactor to his fellow-creatures to be held up to odium by the writer of these lines, seeing this, said, “Now we can count out;” and, accordingly, the thing was done, and very artistically done, too. Members inside were persuaded to come out; members outside were persuaded to keep out. It was only persuasion, though that was used, and the arguments employed were these—“What is the use of wasting a beautiful evening in discussing measures that cannot possibly pass?” And is not this good reasoning? Good or bad, it proved irresistible. When Mr. Speaker counted there were but nineteen members present. Outside there were members enough to make the House. Mr. Monk said on Monday there were a hundred at the doorway; but, say, twenty is nearer the mark. Mr. Monk's imagination was heated as he thought of the conspirators against his poor dear little chick. The simple truth is, the members would not go in because there was no business to be done, but only business to be talked about. At this season of the year it is not uncommon for members to get weary of mere futile talk. It was said on Monday that Lord Robert Montagu committed the grievous sin of persuading members not to go in. Our belief is that he did nothing of the sort. It is true he did not himself go in. “The very head and front of his offending hath this extent, no more.”

CURIOUS BIRDS.

On Monday her most gracious Majesty gave a breakfast in Buckingham Palace Gardens, between the hours of four and seven p.m. Mind the p.m.—breakfast at that hour being, we fancy, quite a novelty. Night policemen, night scavengers, &c., who work in the night and sleep in the day, probably breakfast at that hour; and so extremes have come to meet. But with this we have nothing to do. The costume worn at that breakfast, as it came under our eye, we may be at liberty to describe. Majesty or Majesty's Lord Chamberlain settled that Majesty's visitors should appear in evening coats and morning trousers. The philosophy of this is apparent. “What shall the costume be?” said Majesty or Majesty's Lord Chamberlain. Morning? No; four to seven cannot be called morning. Evening, then? No; neither can it be said to be evening. Majesty or Majesty's Lord Chamberlain was in a difficulty. At last it was settled as difficulties often are settled. It was resolved to split the difference by ruling that the costume should be evening tailed-coat and morning trousers; and so it was authoritatively announced that motley was to be the only wear. Well, on Monday night we had some scores of these party-coloured gentlemen fitting about the house; and novel and odd they looked, like some strange birds, with black backs and tails, white breasts, and hodon grey legs. Most of these trousers were obviously new, but some of them looked as if they had been dragged out of obscurity and washed for the occasion.

LORD WILLIAM HAY.

On Monday night we had a variety of subjects before the House—Fisheary Bills, India Bills, Irish Reform Bill (another wrangle upon that). We got through “the report,” though, at last; and on Thursday it will be read the third time, passed, and sent to the House of Lords. It is a poor, attenuated thing; but it will do for the nonce. At all events, it is out of the way, and that is a great mercy. But it was not of that we intended to talk, but of Lord William Hay, who spoke on the India Bill. What the India Bill enacts we know not; few know or care to know. When India is on the carpet here members go away, excusing themselves by alleging, “It is only India.” Only an empire with 100,000 millions of people! But let that pass. It is agreed by all who heard Lord William that he made a very lucid, able speech, which, though we did not hear it, we know he is well able to do. Lord William Hay is third son of the Marquis of Tweeddale. He is member for Taunton, and came into Parliament for the first time in 1865. He has lived in India, and he held office there for many years. He does not often speak—scarcely ever, except upon Indian subjects—but when he does, he always gains the ear of the House, as he ought to do; for he understands his subject (not a common thing this), and can make his hearers understand it. Men who really understand their subject can mostly make others understand it too. Half the muddy, muddled speeches which we have in the House are so because the thoughts of the speaker are muddy and muddled. But still, in addition to knowledge, a speaker ought to be possessed of the gift of speaking; and this Lord William has in no common degree. Will Lord William be in the next Liberal Government? He ought to be.

GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION.—Last Saturday morning a series of explosions of gunpowder and gun-cotton took place at Dolcoath mine, near Camborne. The miners are accustomed to receive their supplies of powder and gun-cotton for blasting every Monday morning, and the quantity thus received, amounting from 10lb. to 50lb. for each “pair” of men, is stored in a number of small cupboards, arranged against the wall of an open court, situated near the copper floors. There seems, however, to have been some carelessness in dealing with the powder, for several grains were scattered about, and these were ignited by one of four little boys (three of them brothers) who had gone to “look for powder,” causing the whole quantity stored, amounting to about three cwt., to explode. The lads were frightenedly burnt, and died from the effects of the injuries they received.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

RECEPTION OF THE TROOPS FROM ABYSSINIA.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH made a warm appeal to the Government to give the Abyssinian troops a triumphal reception when they arrived in this country. If there was no precedent for such a thing it was the business of Ministers to make one, inasmuch as there was no precedent for the manner in which the troops had done their work.

Lord MALMESBURY agreed in the praise bestowed upon the expedition, but thought it would not be a wise step to take to carry out the suggestion of Lord Ellenborough.

In this opinion the Duke of CAMBRIDGE agreed, and, after a brief conversation, the matter dropped.

THE NEW LAW COURTS.

The Marquis of SALISBURY initiated a debate in reference to the new law courts. He complained of the manner in which the architects who sent designs for these buildings had been treated; and asked for the reasons which had induced the Government to appoint Mr. Street as the architect for the new courts.

The LORD CHANCELLOR replied, but gave no satisfactory reason for passing over the recommendations of the Commissioners who had examined the designs sent in. There was a long debate on the subject, in the course of which several peers expressed their dissatisfaction with the course taken by the Government.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

It was not until four o'clock that the Commons made a House. Some private business was then dispatched; and in ten minutes after, being only nineteen members present, the House was counted out.

MONDAY, JUNE 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House, during a short sitting of twenty minutes, forwarded several bills a stage, but none of them possessed any features of public importance.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE TENURE OF LAND IN IRELAND.

The Earl of MAYO, replying to an inquiry of Sir C. O'Loughlin, expressed the wish of the Government to issue a Royal Commission on the tenure and occupation of land in Ireland; but, as it was desirable that members of both Houses should serve upon it, they felt that it would be impossible to do so until the new Parliament had met.

THE COUNT-OUT OF FRIDAY.

Mr. MONK, calling attention to the “count-out” on Friday, complained that by not keeping a House on that occasion the Government had failed to redeem the promise, given him by the Premier, to facilitate the discussion of his bill conferring the Parliamentary franchise on the officers of the revenue department of the public service.

Mr. DISRAELI disclaimed all responsibility for the event. The Government, he said, had discharged their duty by making a House, and, if a House was not kept on Friday, those who had business on the paper were quite as much to blame as the Government.

Mr. CANDISH, Mr. OTWAY, Mr. MILL, Mr. BOUVERIE, and others offered circumstantial evidence to prove that Government officials had worked hard to prevent a House being made.

MR. HARDY and MR. SCLATER-BOOTH asserted that the Ministry were as much taken aback by the “count-out” as any other members, and that the Government business really suffered most by the delay.

SIR H. EDWARDS and MR. VANCE asserted that the Opposition was really responsible for the “count out.” It had been moved by a Liberal member, and the motive was that the Liberal members could not agree about Mr. Fawcett's motion to throw open Trinity College, Dublin.

SEA FISHERIES.

The Lords' amendments to the Sea Fisheries Bill were discussed at some length, and gave rise to two divisions; but in the end the amendments were agreed to.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

On the motion for going into Committee on the Government of India Act Amendment Bill,

LORD W. HAY entered into some criticisms of the measure, which, in his view, did not carry a change in the constitution of the Council far enough. The only proposal of importance it contained was to make the term of office for which the members were appointed twelve years instead of for life, or good behaviour; but the power of the Council to overrule the Secretary of State for India in matters connected with revenue and expenditure was left untouched. Moreover, he thought that the persons composing the Council should have ten or twelve years of recent experience in Indian affairs.

The discussion was continued by Mr. MILL, Colonel SYKES, SIR H. RAWLINSON, and SIR N. NORTHCOTE. The right hon. Baronet urged that the Indian Government was now a branch of the Imperial Executive, but it was desirable to give greater administrative strength to the Governor General, and experience had shown that it was well to keep the control in a body apart from the House of Commons and placed beyond political considerations. The House then went into Committee, and, after passing a few clauses, progress was reported.

THE IRISH REFORM BILL.

The House then resumed the consideration of the Irish Reform Bill.

MR. VANCE, encouraged by the Earl of Mayo, endeavoured to procure the insertion of a clause extending the limits of residence for electors of the city of Dublin to twelve miles; but, after a short discussion, Mr. DISRAELI recommended that the clause should not be pressed to a division, and it was accordingly withdrawn by its author. A proposal made by SIR F. HEYGATE to assimilate the franchise in boroughs, counties of cities, and counties of towns found more favour with the Prime Minister; but after an ineffectual attempt had been made to procure the adjournment of the debate, the hon. Baronet withdrew the clause, in order to facilitate the progress of the bill. Some verbal amendments were introduced, and the report was received.

THE BOUNDARY BILL.

The Boundary Bill was read the third time, and passed.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE SUSPENSORY BILL.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, replying to an inquiry of Lord Penrhyn, who wished to know, as both Lord Grey and the Lord Chancellor had given notice of their intention to move the rejection of the Irish Church Suspensory Bill, which noble Lord was to have precedence, explained that the usual practice was for the Government to take precedence; but he was sorry to say that he had written to the noble Earl, asking him to give way, without effect. That being the case, it would be unseemly on the part of the Government to attempt in any manner to test the wishes of the House on the subject of precedence. He concluded, therefore, that on Thursday evening Lord Grey would proceed to move his amendment.

THE SCOTCH REFORM BILL.

Lord MALMESBURY then moved the second reading of the Scotch Reform Bill, the provisions of which he explained. A few observations were then made by the Duke of ARGYLL; and the bill was read the second time.

THE IRISH CHURCH.

Lord LYTTLETON presented a petition in favour of the disestablishment of the Irish Church, signed by 261 beneficed and other clergymen of the Church of England. The petitioners set forth that, in their belief, the measure would be an act of justice to Ireland, and be attended with the most beneficial results to that country. The noble Lord added that the signatures by no means represented the number of the clergy who concurred in the views of the petitioners, who included many eminent dignitaries and masters of public schools, and divines distinguished for their learning.

The Earl of LONGFORD remarked that he had presented a petition, far more numerously signed, from clergymen in Ireland, who, if not so well known, were certainly far better judges of the facts of the case than these distinguished persons, whether, as Churchmen, they were High, Low, or Broad.

Lord REDESDALE warmly protested against the ungenerous character of the petition, which, he said, had originated with parties of peculiar views who desired, for reasons of their own, to relieve the Church from the supremacy of the State.

Earl GRANVILLE remarked that that only showed the moral courage of the petitioners.

The Bishop of OXFORD subsequently describing these gentlemen as “clergymen unattached.”

The Duke of ARGYLL retorted that they comprised among them high dignitaries of the Church and the heads of several of the most important educational establishments in the country.

The petition was then ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMON

AN ARMY OF RESERVE.

Lord ELCHO, at the evening sitting, moved an address for the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon our military organisation, in so far as it relates to the establishment of a sufficient and an economical army of reserve, and the means it offers of speedy and efficient expansion to meet the requirements of war, more especially for home defence. His Lordship entered at some length into the state of our military system, and the necessity for some improvement in its working.

General PEELE thought the moment opportune for an inquiry, as we were neither in a state of panic nor false security. Our present system was defective in this respect, that officers were wanting in the militia while they were superabundant in the line; the remedy was to transfer men from the latter to the former.

Sir H. VERNET recommended that a few regiments should be embodied for short service. They would get a very superior class of men, who might be drilled and become perfectly good soldiers in four or five years. A large body of these would pass through the Army rapidly, and these would naturally be the army of reserve.

Sir J. PAKINGTON's speech was, in the first place, a protest against anything approaching to the un-English system of a conscription; it was enough that the Sovereign should have power, as at present, to enforce a ballot for the militia; and, in the next place, an optimist assertion that our reserve forces were quite sufficient, and that being so no inquiry was needed.

An allusion by Major JERVIS to the volunteers at the Windsor review as a "mere undisciplined rabble" gave rise to some controversy.

Sir J. PAKINGTON confessed that the events of last Saturday showed that the discipline of the volunteers was not yet perfect, and that if they were to be brought together in large bodies some change of arrangement would be necessary.

Colonel NORTH testified to the admirable manner in which many of the battalions marched off the ground.

Mr. ACLAUD hoped that the cause of the "disaster" would be strictly inquired into.

Mr. LIDDELL held that the volunteers were not adequately officered.

Lord ELCHO defended the volunteers, dividing the blame of the confusion between certain officers who had left their corps and the railway arrangements of the War Office and the companies.

Ultimately Lord ELCHO withdrew his motion.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The first order was Mr. Bruce's Elementary Education Bill, which stood for the second reading. Although the right honourable gentleman at the outset announced that he was about to withdraw it, he took occasion to deliver an elaborate valediction over it, and, moreover, compared it with the proposals of the Government, giving some sharp hits at Lord Robert Montagu, who, throwing over the opinion of his chief, as indicated in the measure which had been brought forward by the Government, had, in moving the Education Estimate, stated that things were as nearly perfect as possible. With much zeal and earnestness a number of gentlemen—notably Mr. Dixon, Mr. Jacob Bright, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Henley, and Mr. W. E. Forster—delivered themselves on the subject; and anon Lord Robert Montagu, in somewhat scolding fashion, replied to Mr. Bruce, and was presumed to be vindicating himself against the criticism of that gentleman.

The example of withdrawal set in this instance was followed in regard to the next order, the Railway and Joint-stock Companies' Accounts Bill.

Then Mr. BLAKE pronounced quite an oration—historical, traditional, and statistical—on the provocation of moving the second reading of the Sea Fisheries (Ireland) Bill. The burden of the discussion was that Irish fisheries were not sufficiently encouraged by grants of public money, or, at any rate, Scotland had great advantage in that respect. Some hope was held out by the Earl of MAYO that a board would be established which could superintend the inland and sea fisheries of Ireland. The bill was read the second time just before the hour of interruption, and all the rest was of course undisputed business.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE IRISH CHURCH SUSPENSORY BILL.

Earl GRANVILLE referred to the horror and indignation which had been evoked by the outbreak of Fenianism in Ireland and Canada, and which had caused people to reflect and to see what could be done for the better government of the sister isle. Her Majesty's Government had fully admitted that Ireland was the question of the day. The Lord Privy Seal and the Irish Secretary had both referred to the various questions, which they deemed expedient to be considered for the improvement of Ireland. The noble Earl descended on Lord Mayo's views as expressed in regard to the Irish Church, and quoted at length from his Lordship's several speeches in Parliament on this subject, and proceeded to say that the inference which he drew from the declaration of Lord Mayo in regard to a Catholic University was that it was the intention of the Government to endow a University for the Catholic body. The Government certainly did at first show some conciliatory policy towards Ireland, though in a manner of which he did not approve. But the Opposition, in consequence of thinking that some great conciliatory measure was necessary for Ireland, had brought forward this bill. He need not repeat the substance of the resolutions of Mr. Gladstone, which were now formed into a bill. That bill had been confirmed in the House of Commons by enormous majorities. Lord Stanley—and he had very great respect indeed for his Lordship's opinion—had said that not one educated man could support the maintenance of the Irish Church as it is at present. He would be wanting if he only referred to the practical advantages accruing from the present bill as a justification for his support of it; but he believed, in addition, it would be a sign of the goodwill of Parliament itself to the people of Ireland. He found by the last Census that there were not 700,000 Anglicans in Ireland, while there were more than four millions and a half of Roman Catholics. There was only one diocese where the percentage of Anglican worshippers exceeded 25 per cent. Such a statement of facts showed that the object of the church was not fulfilled as a mission Church. He could not help asking whether the Irish Church was not an injustice to the people of Ireland? The Church was the last remnant of conquest. No amplification on his part could add to the force of the simple facts he had just laid before their Lordships. The noble Earl then proceeded to reply to the arguments which had been offered the other evening by the noble Lord the Chairman of Committees (Lord Redesdale) against the disestablishment of the Church. He had spoken of it as a matter of sacrifice to deal with the revenues of the Church. These were grave words; and it seemed to him to savour of profanity to use the word sacrifice in connection with ecclesiastical revenues. Looking at the way in which revenues had been changed from one sect to another, he would like to know whose rights could be called sacred and whose not, or whether any could really be called so.

Earl GREY said that he had no party feeling in opposing the second reading of the bill. He thought that the attempt to support the establishment of the Irish Church would only perpetuate all the ill-feeling that at present existed between the Irish Catholics and the Protestants. It had been said that this was a step for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Protestant Church; but, however much he agreed with them in that step, the bill did not go the right way to accomplish that object. It provided nothing, but paralysed the existing means of administering the Church funds.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ABYSSINIAN ARMY.

Captain VIVIAN asked the First Lord of the Treasury when he would move a vote of thanks to Sir R. Napier and the troops engaged in the Abyssinian campaign?

Mr. DISRAELE said it was not convenient at the present moment to state the reasons which had induced the delay.

THE PEEL STATUE.

Lord ELCHO moved that, "In the opinion of the House, the Peel statue ought to be removed from its present site, in New Palace-yard." He thought the site and the statue both very bad, and he referred to the manner in which statues were raised in London. He thought until recently that the statue of the Duke of Wellington on the arch at the top of Constitution-hill was the apotheosis of art; but after he saw the Peel statue he altered his opinion. One chief reason for his calling the attention of the House to this statue was also to direct attention to the system which prevailed in the metropolis with regard to statues. He felt that some controlling power was required in regard to them and also to the destruction of ancient historic buildings by the construction of railways. He suggested that the Chief Commissioner of Works and other gentlemen should be appointed to watch the construction of statues. In the course of a discussion which ensued,

Mr. CARDWELL said the original Committee was one which it was impossible to improve on, and they selected Baron Marochetti. The statue was erected with the consent of both the ex-Commissioner of Works and the present Commissioner.

Lord J. MANNERS thought no advantage could be gained by instituting a department to be subject to the control of a Minister of Art. In conclusion, the noble Lord hoped the House would not assent to the resolution, because it appeared to him that it amounted to a violation of public faith pledged to the original subscribers.

On a division, Lord Elcho's resolution was carried by a majority of 182 to 71.

THE REMAINS of an ancient Syracusan colony have just been discovered at Cassaro, in Sicily. The surrounding wall was 2000 metres in circumference, and three in thickness. The researches made show that the town was divided into several quarters.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1868.

THE PUBLIC MEETING FARCE.

WHAT is a public meeting? and, was there ever a time when public meetings were public meetings?—that is, assemblages in which all or any portion of the public might meet and freely express opinions on any given subject. If ever such a halcyon era existed—which we doubt, for we are unable to fix its date, though our recollections range over a considerable space of time—it certainly exists no longer. A public meeting, in these days, is invariably of one of two types: it is either a gathering to which only persons of one way of thinking are admitted, or at which only one set of opinions may be advocated; or it is a noisy rabble, in which no arguments whatever are listened to. The real public meeting, where all sorts of citizens may come together and freely express their views, where principles may be canvassed, opinions formed, and public policy determined on, is no longer possible. If such a gathering be attempted, and the topic under consideration be exciting, deliberation is out of the question. All projects of public interest and importance have supporters and opponents, neither of whom will tolerate free speech in their adversaries. Both sides pack the assemblage with partisans, whose only argument is clamour, and whose sole purpose in attending is to hinder debate; and the result is generally such a fiasco as that exhibited in the Guildhall on Monday. In fact, the earnest, if somewhat cynical, publicist may well be excused for saying that public meetings, as conducted nowadays, are simply huge farces, and prove nothing whatever.

If the close system be adopted, and no one be admitted who is not a supporter of those who summoned the meeting—that is, if the admission be by ticket, and tickets be given only to friends—the views expressed and the resolutions passed are not the views and resolutions of the public, but only of a section thereof; and simply show that two parties exist in the State in regard to the matter under consideration; a fact that is perfectly well known already. That is all the purpose such meetings do, or can, serve. Such gatherings convince no one; they really influence nobody's action; and they determine nothing. We have had several specimens of that kind of thing lately in reference to the Irish Church question; notably, the gathering of clergymen in St. James's Hall, and the so-called meeting of City laymen, presided over by the Lord Mayor, at the Cannon-street hotel. At these meetings all dissidence was rigidly forbidden; and anyone bold enough to attempt its expression, even in the mildest form, was rudely hustled, and in some instances maltreated, by the self-appointed champions of the religion that inculcates the endurance of contradiction weekly and gladly. Whatever those champions may preach, they showed conclusively that they had no idea of exhibiting any such endurance in practice. They are emphatically "muscular Christians," and they gave convincing proof of that fact, if they proved nothing else. To call such a meeting a "public" one is a misuse of terms; it was merely an assemblage of a certain section of the public, and, from its very nature, could be nothing more. Nor are Conservatives and Churchmen alone addicted to these tactics. Other parties practise them as well. We have ourselves been present at meetings presided over by Mr. Beales, of the Reform League, at which no dissent from the opinions of the promoters of the meeting, and no departure from the pre-arranged programme, was permitted, innovators in either respect being howled down—and that at the instigation of the chairman, too; and when opposition was persisted in, the so-called "disturbers" of the meeting were summarily ejected, not in the gentlest manner. No party, then, has a right to complain that their opponents resort to "hole-and-corner" meetings and refuse to listen to free discussion; for all are alike guilty in these respects. Assemblages of this description, therefore, are not, in the proper sense of the phrase, "public meetings"; they are mere sectional gatherings; and to attribute to their proceedings the dignity of an expression of public opinion is a farce and an absurdity.

If, on the other hand, the open plan be adopted, and all citizens, whatever their opinions, be invited to attend, the meeting, as at Guildhall, becomes a mere rabble; generally ends in a row; and if any party wins in the contest, it is the one which can make most noise, which is handiest at fistcuffs, and can most effectively wield sticks, umbrellas, and so forth. Speakers are not allowed a hearing, resolutions are not permitted to be read or put to the vote. The reporters are the only persons who know anything of what is said or are cognisant of what is done; and, as the points in dispute are relegated to the press at last, they might as well have

been left for discussion by it at first. Such a meeting as this is no less an absurdity, if called a public meeting, than the other. It is a farce too; and thus we come to the conclusion—cynical it may be, but true—that public meetings are farces altogether, and therefore to be both avoided and derided by thinking men.

The platform clearly, as an arena for discussion, is obsolete, if it ever had a practical existence as such; and we are consequently forced to fall back upon the press for the discussion of public questions and the formation of opinion, and to the polling-booth and the Senate for its expression. This is a result undoubtedly to be lamented, for the right of public meeting is a valuable, and might be a useful, popular prerogative; if fairly conducted, open meetings might become excellent political schools, at which a knowledge of public affairs—much needed, and likely to be more needed now than ever—might be attained, and the habit of judging of national concerns acquired. But human passion, blind selfishness, and narrow-minded partisanship, have brought popular assemblages into ridicule, and made the right of public meeting of non-effect. However we may regret the fact, it must be admitted to be a fact, that public meetings have degenerated into the veriest of farces; and as the platform can no longer serve a useful purpose as the arena of instruction, we must look to other quarters for the performance of the work it was intended—and was, if wisely used, well calculated—to accomplish. It has not been wisely used; and consequently will, more and more every day, be superseded by the press; for it is intolerable that matters of great pith and moment shall be determined by mere fussy busy-bodies and noisy clamourers.

THE LIBRARY of the once famous John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina, was recently sold to pay a debt of a few hundred dollars, which his impoverished widow and daughter had no other means of paying. The proceeds of the sale of one of the choicest private collections of books in the South were pitiful indeed, whole shelves of books being knocked down for from four to six dollars the shelf. Other personal property had then to be sold to satisfy the claims of the creditors.

STOVES AND OVENS.—Black lead is a great institution in this country, and probably few but cooks and housemaids would care to see its use diminished. It certainly has its recommendations; but it can hardly be said to be ornamental, while it entails an immense amount of labour on our servants. In Germany, where a stove and sort of kitchen range is continually to be found in the common sitting-room of a respectable family, the unsightliness seems to have been felt, and a suggestion has been made to do away with the black lead and paint the stoves and ovens. Oil paint, of course, cannot be employed, but water glass (silicate of potash) coloured with pigment to match the paint of the apartment is the material recommended. Before this is applied, the iron must be thoroughly cleaned from grease, and all rust spots must be rubbed off with a scratch brush. Two or three coats of the paint may then be put on and allowed to dry, after which the fire may be lighted without fear of injury to the colour, which may, indeed, be heated to redness. Grease or milk split over the paint has no effect upon it, and it may be kept clean by washing with soap and water. Dutch ovens and like utensils may also be coated with the same materials, and the labour spent in polishing be saved. A good coating of the paint, the author says, will last a year or two.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

THE SERVIAN CONSPIRACY.—The Servian conspiracy seems to have originated with a society called "Serbaka Omladina," or "Young Servia." It is composed of young men—principally students—and is spread over the whole country. It has many members in foreign countries. It is a specialty of the association that it never holds meetings except in the vacation time—that is to say, between July and September. Servia has no University of its own; but the Servian youth are sent, for the most part at the expense of the State, to foreign Universities, in France, Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. These young Servians form committees, in each University, under different names. Those who study in Vienna, for example, have a committee called "Zora," or "Aurora." Their objects are partly recreative, scientific, and literary. They publish every year an almanack containing original patriotic tales and scientific articles on subjects which were the objects of study in the various committees. The Omladina is the name of the association formed by the entire body of students, when they return to Servia for the vacation. It is a kind of student congress, which meets in Belgrade, with the consent and under the surveillance of the authorities. The different committees give an account of the labours of the past year, and agree as to the work of the next year; and the resolutions adopted are adhered to with scrupulous exactness. The last meeting of the Omladina was presided over by M. Gruic, an ex-Servian Minister, and was dissolved by the Government, on account of the tumultuous nature of the proceedings. These young men are animated with what they deem grand Servian ideas; and they were not very favourable to Prince Michael, whose sole merit in their eyes was that he freed the country of Turkish garrisons.

MACHINE FOR DRYING HAY.—There is now to be seen at Gilwell Park, near Sewardstone, Essex, an invention which promises to be of the greatest value to farmers, and indirectly, of some interest to all who keep horses. It is a machine for drying hay, so that in the wettest weather hay can be mowed, carried, dried, and stacked within an hour. Mr. W. G. Gibbs, to whom the invention is due, has, of course, spent a good deal of money in bringing it to its present state of perfection; but there is nothing in the apparatus itself to cost more than twenty pounds, exclusive of the ordinary farm locomotive which every large farmer at present possesses. He takes such a locomotive, with a tubular boiler, and removes the front plate, fitting over the aperture an iron case containing an ordinary fan. This fan is driven by an endless band, in the same way as a winnowing-machine would be driven; and, revolving, it sucks through the tubes of the boiler a quantity of air superheated, of course, by its passage over the furnace and through the tubes. This hot air is conducted by an expanding pipe, or rather channel of iron, to a chamber inclosed on three sides, in which the grass, wet as it is cut in the meadow, or even wetter, as it has been rained on in the cart, is thrown lightly near the exit of the hot blast, and is, in three or four minutes, thoroughly dried without (which is particularly strange) losing its colour. When dried it has at first a singed smell, but less than five minutes' exposure to the air leaves the hay perfectly sweet and good. It is then thrown into a chamber below which revolves another fan, and this blows the hay up the interior of a contrivance very like a fire escape to the top of the stack, where it is received by a man who distributes it evenly. In fine weather the sun, of course, does half the work of the machine, but in such a season as that of 1867 the apparatus of Mr. Gibbs would in one month save all its cost. We hope the inventor will give practical agriculturists an opportunity of inspecting the invention at the approaching show at Leicester, when there can be no doubt it will at once command their attention and make them—as it must make everybody—wonder that a contrivance so effective, and yet so simple, had not been found out before.

CAPTURE OF STRAY DOGS AT BRUSSELS.

WE commend this illustration to the attention of Sir Richard Mayne, with the full conviction that he will take no notice whatever of a suggestion which would not only increase the safety of our streets, but advance the cause of humanity, and rid us of the horrid spectacle, now too common, of a wretched cur writhing in convulsive throes from the ineffectual attempt to kill it by a clumsy blow from a policeman's truncheon. It is, perhaps, wise that police-officers should have the power to destroy, or at all events to dispose of, all stray dogs in such a way that passengers in the streets may be secured from the snapping bites of half-rabid creatures; that all dogs found wandering about unmuzzled and without collars should be treated as masterless brutes and put out of the way, unless owners can be found for them; but there are two ways of doing it. Our Engraving shows how the operation is managed in Brussels, where people suffer a good deal, if not from rabid curs, at least from the fear of the mischief they are likely to accomplish on plump Belgian legs. This is how the thing is done:—Two men go quietly along the streets, followed by a cart, which is something like a sheep-pen on wheels. Each man is provided with a stout bag, mounted on an iron ring at the end of a strong stick in the manner of a landing-net, or rather resembling in appearance the nets used for catching butterflies for entomological collections. Thus armed,



THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT WINDSOR: RENDEZVOUS IN THE LONG WALK.

they are ready to bag any dog who is discovered wandering about without the regulation muzzle marked with the municipal arms. The animal is serenely unconscious, the adepts behind him are serenely self-possessed. They follow, slowly if possible, swiftly if necessary; a few rapid steps, and,

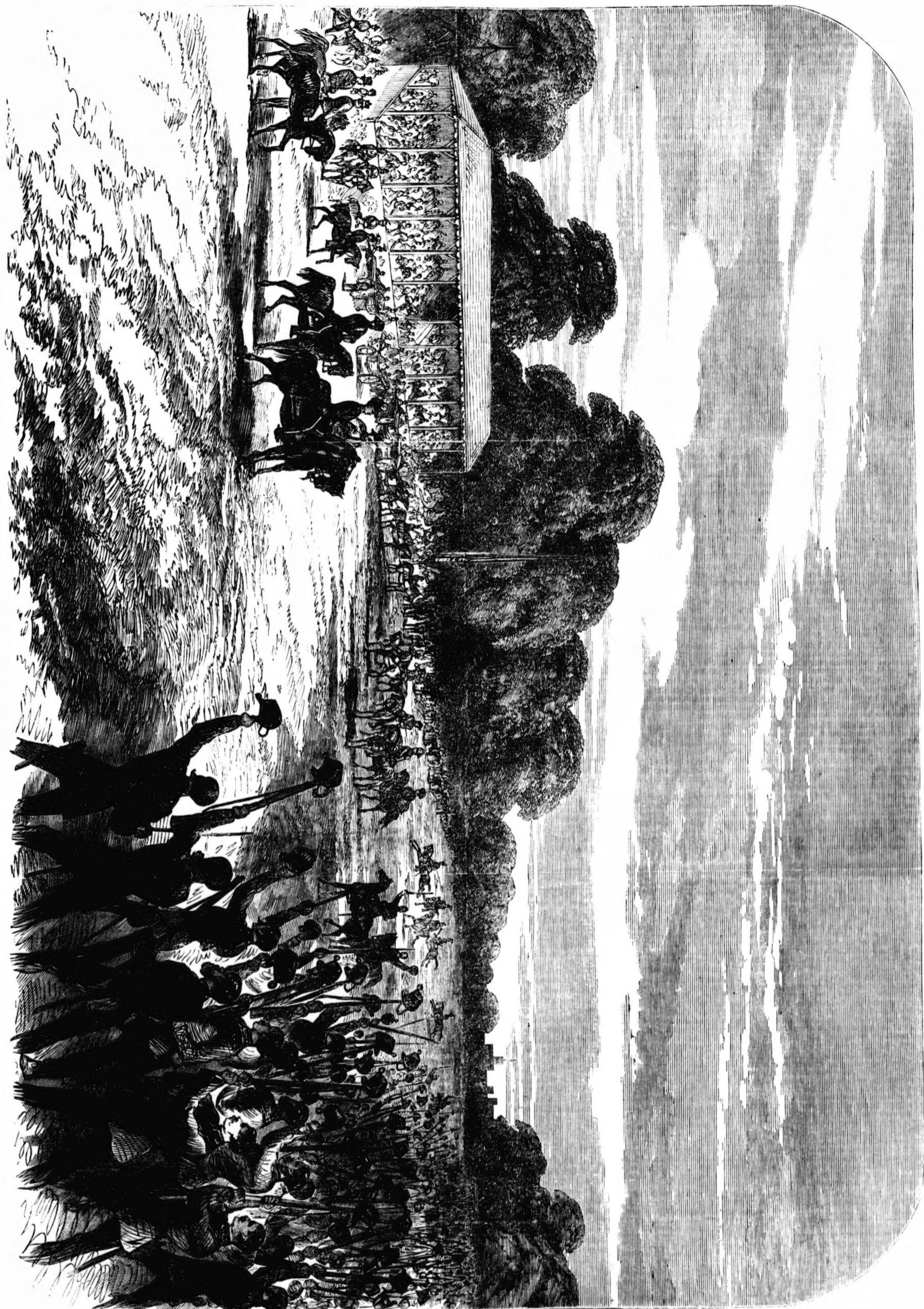
whisk!—neatly disposed over his head, the animal is cleverly bagged, raised aloft, deposited with polite tenderness in the cart and taken off with half a score others (the product of a morning's sport) to the municipal pound, where, if he is not claimed in two

days, he is otherwise disposed of—that is the phrase we choose to employ, "otherwise disposed of." Whether it be by strychnia, or a bag with a stone in it, or in any more scientific manner, we have not particularly inquired; but it may be taken for granted that, as so much care is used in the capture, the execution (where it becomes necessary) is conducted on civilised principles.



CATCHING STRAY DOGS IN BRUSSELS.

TERMINATION OF THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT WINDSOR: THE TROOPS CHEERING HER MAJESTY.



SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, on Monday, gave a grand entertainment at Buckingham Palace, which, although it took place between the hours of four and seven in the afternoon, was by a Court euphemism called a "breakfast." This was probably because the entertainment took place *al fresco*, marquises of great expanse and tastefully decorated being erected in the palace gardens. Her Majesty and Princesses Alice and Louisa came up from Windsor to be present, and the invitations were exceedingly numerous.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON is very fond of taking solitary walks in the Forest of Fontainebleau, and making experiments with the small portable pump which has been used with so much advantage by the English in Abyssinia. It is said that his Majesty has discovered by its means a sulphur spring in the forest.

THE QUEEN OF MOHILLA has arrived at Suez on board the Mayflower, on her way to Paris. Mohilla is one of the Comoro group, situated at the southern entrance of the Mozambique Channel.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ARTHUR received his commission as an officer of engineers, on Friday week, at Woolwich Academy.

LORD STANLEY gave a grand reception to a numerous and distinguished company at the new Foreign Office on Wednesday night. The rooms were decorated for the occasion much as they were for Mrs. Disraeli's reception, and the effect is said to have been extremely fine.

SIR ROBERT NAPIER is expected to arrive in this country in a few days. That the gallant General will be heartily received there can be little doubt. He will pay an early visit to Trelydan Hall, near Welshpool, and the inhabitants of that town have already resolved on giving him a public reception.

DR. ATLAY, the new Bishop of Hereford, was consecrated, on Wednesday morning, in Westminster Abbey. The Archbishop of Canterbury was the officiating Prelate, and the Bishops of London, Oxford, Rochester, and Gloucester and Bristol were present at the ceremony.

THE ELECTION OF SHERIFFS FOR THE CITY OF LONDON took place, on Wednesday, in the Guildhall, with the usual formalities. Alderman Cotton and Mr. C. W. C. Hutton were the gentlemen upon whom the honour devolved. Their election was unanimous.

LORD VAUX, of Harrowden, an officer of the Prince of Wales's staff, has been cast in £75 damages for assaulting a Dublin carman who refused to take a sixpenny fare.

THE REV. DR. BUTLER, Head Master of Harrow School, has resigned his seat on the local board of health at Harrow—the office of chairman to the board having been filled by him and the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, his predecessor in the Head Mastership, for a period of eighteen years, when the Public Health Act was first applied to Harrow.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has authorised the Krupp firm at Essen to execute considerable order of cast-steel guns for the Russian military administration. Russia intends to transform all her artillery into the Prussian model.

MR. UNWIN HEYGATE, who formerly represented Leicester in the Conservative interest, was elected, on Tuesday, without opposition, for the borough of Stamford. In his speech returning thanks he warmly eulogised the conduct of the present Government, and promised to support them.

THE REV. DR. CALDERWOOD, of Glasgow, has been elected to the Chair of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh. The election of Principal has been postponed until July 6.

MR. DISRAELI has responded to an appeal made to him on behalf of the orphan children of John and Anne Leech, and has caused the pension granted to their late mother to be continued to them.

THE ROYAL ACADEMICIANS have re-elected Mr. Richard Partridge, F.R.S., late President of the Royal College of Surgeons, their Professor of Anatomy by a very considerable majority.

THE NEW FORTIFICATIONS AT HURST CASTLE, at the entrance of the Solent, are nearly completed.

ARCHBISHOP MANNING has just consecrated a new Roman Catholic church at Barts-on-Irwell, in Lancashire. The church has been erected from the designs of Mr. Welby Pugin, at the sole expense of Sir Humphrey de Trafford, of Trafford Park, and, with the presbytery, cost £16,000.

A FIRE OF GREAT MAGNITUDE has just taken place at Bremen. It commenced in one of the large cotton-stores, and soon spread to other warehouses and private houses, and was not suppressed till property amounting to nearly two million thalers was destroyed.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS Dr. Derry and Dr. Leahy have published a letter to Lord Mayo, denying positively that the negotiation for the Catholic University charter was broken off by them, and more than suggesting that the Government made the bare offer merely to subserve political exigencies.

THE ACTION FOR LIBEL against the *Daily Telegraph*, brought by Risk Allah Bey, has resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, with £960 damages. In a similar action against the *Standard* Risk Allah was nonsuited, what the jury deemed a sufficient apology having been inserted in the paper before the action was commenced.

THE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES are still taking precautionary measures against the apprehended Fenian invasion. A strong guard has been stationed on the Victoria Bridge at Montreal. It is reported that the Federal Government has seized some Fenian arms at St. Albans.

A MAN NAMED ROURE has been executed by the garrote, at Madrid, for the murder of a gaoler at the prison of Melilla. Before ascending the scaffold he admitted that he had previously taken the lives of six other persons, besides committing various lesser crimes.

BOYS IN THE WESTERN STATES OF AMERICA are in the habit of lying between the rails of a railroad track and letting the trains pass over them. They consider it brave. A boy, nine years old, was killed recently, near Springfield, in making this crazy experiment.

A ROUND ROBIN was recently presented to the master of a great school complaining of the sourness of the beer supplied to the boys. The master sententiously replied, "My dear boys, all men and all things are imperfect. You, too, have your faults, and you ought to occupy yourselves with correcting them instead of undertaking to reform my cellar. When you have corrected the acidity of your own temper, it will be high time for you to complain of the sourness of my beer."

THE FINE CUPOLA of the library belonging to the Palace of Luxembourg, which was painted in fresco by Eugène Delacroix, has fallen in, "as if," says a French paper, "it had been overlaid with elegant decorations and artistic beauties." The several parts of the cupola were collected and transported to the studios of the Louvre, where M. de Nieuwerkerke has ordered the repairing of the damage.

CARDINAL CULLEN has published a letter to his clergy, insisting upon "the Catholic dogma" of the Pope's spiritual authority "over the whole earth." His Eminence has deemed it expedient "to dwell upon this important truth on account of the many assaults which are made at the present day, by bad Catholics, and false friends, and open foes, on Rome, the central see of the Catholic Church." He exhorts them also not to be deluded by the "seductive utilitarian schemes of modern philanthropists," but to insist on their rights "as free and Catholic citizens of this empire."

THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT has replied to an address from the London bankers and merchants respecting the financial measures passed by the Reichsrath for taxing the coupons of the public debt. In this reply the course adopted by the Austrian Parliament is vindicated at considerable length, and the creditors of the State are assured that the measure which has given rise to so much complaint is "the indispensable corollary of a work of reform and reconstruction of which they will be the first to reap the benefit."

A NOVEL SALE took place at the auction-rooms of Messrs. Debenham and Stor, in Garrick-street, on Monday. The rooms were hung round with ecclesiastical vestments of every description and of the most costly character. There were copes, stoles, dalmatics, albs, tunics, maniples, chasubles, cassocks, berettes, banners, and everything else which the most ardent Ritualist could require for carrying out in the most complete style the various offices of the Church. The novelty of the sale attracted a considerable number of clergy and laity interested in such matters, and good prices were realised for some of the articles more generally used.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS appointed to inquire into the operation of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act do not recommend the repeal of that much-abused statute. They believe that its assertion of the Constitutional supremacy of the Sovereign has not been barren of results; at the same time, its abrogation would lead to misconstruction, and any advantage to be gained from a modification of the enactment would be more than counterbalanced by the evil of reopening a question always calculated to provoke much irritation of feeling.

A MAN was tried at the Middlesex Sessions, the other day, for the theft of some flannel, to which he pleaded guilty. He had been twice convicted before; and the Assistant Judge, in sentencing him, reminded him of this, and warned him that if he again appeared before the Court he would probably have penal servitude for seven years. "Oh! you may as well give it me at once, I shall come again," replied the prisoner, with great naïveté. "Do you mean that?" asked the Assistant Judge. "Yes, I do." "Then the sentence upon you is that you be kept in penal servitude for seven years." And he was taken away.

IN A RAILWAY CUTTING at Pont de Pierre, not far from Châlons-sur-Saône, at 3 ft. below the surface of the ground, a group of thirteen skeletons has been found in a narrow space, and wonderfully preserved. They seem to be the bones of full-grown men who had died in battle. The skeleton of a woman has been discovered among the others. Between the jaws of one of the dead was found an obolus, which the friend of the deceased had no doubt slipped in to enable the departed to pay his fare to Charon. A coin, very much defaced, but still seen to bear the effigy of the Emperor Gordian, was also picked up among these remains, which leads to the conclusion that 1700 years have elapsed since they were interred.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

RUMOUR is whispering ominously that Gladstone's seat for South Lancashire is not safe. In 1865 he defeated Mr. Legh by a majority of 310. The numbers were—Gladstone, 8786; Legh, 8476. Of course there will be at the next election a large addition to the constituency. This addition will consist mainly of the small renters, enfranchised by the Reform Act; and, as the lower-class voters have generally a stronger tendency to Liberalism than the higher, one would have thought that Gladstone's seat would be quite secure. Those, however, who ought to know—Lancashire Liberals, to wit—prophecy that if he should stand for South Lancashire again he will be beaten; and it is rumoured that he will not stand for South Lancashire. But where is he to go? His natural home is Liverpool, his native town, where his father was so long a merchant prince. Liverpool ought to receive Gladstone with open arms. Liverpool, though, would certainly not do that. Gladstone might get in; but the seat for Liverpool would not be a very nice one, for there are always ruinous contests there. From 1832 to 1857, both inclusive, there was not a single election without a fierce contest. In 1859 Horsfall and Ewart were returned without a fight; but in 1865 Liverpool relapsed into her bad ways; there was desperate contest, and two Conservatives were returned. A very expensive honour is that of representing Liverpool. The money which the Ewarts have spent on elections would handsomely endow a peerage. Mr. Gladstone will not, then, stand for Liverpool. Next to Liverpool, the City, surely, is the place for Gladstone. London is the commercial capital of the world, and Gladstone has done more for commerce than any living man. Surely, then, Gladstone ought to represent London. And London could return him easily. In 1865 the lowest Liberal was ahead of the highest Tory by 2328 votes. London will have five members. The Liberal agents say they can return five Liberals. Surely, Gladstone ought to be one of the five. It is said that Alderman Rose means to offer himself as the Conservative candidate, and perhaps he may; but will the Conservatives accept the proffered Rose? One would decide that the Conservative merchant princes will meet the offer with a cunctious explosion. The Alderman is a very ambitious and very vain man: thinks, no doubt, that he is "the expectancy and Rose of this fair State;" but be sure that the citizens of London will never authenticate this appraisement.

Lord Elcho and other aristocratic "carpet knights" want to make soldiers of all the English people, with or without the people's consent. He would make the whole people an army. But he and his fellows will not popularise the Army by opening up a path from the ranks to a Marshal's baton. Until this be done, it is to be hoped that Parliament will never adopt Lord Elcho's plans. Nay, if this were done, there would be no necessity—no show of necessity—to adopt Lord Elcho's plans. If every private were stimulated by the hope of being an officer—though not one private in a hundred could ever be an officer—depend upon it there would be no lack of privates. I have just risen from the perusal of Mr. Kinglake's third and fourth volumes of "The History of the Invasion of the Crimea;" and this is the one idea that haunts me like a shadow. Almost all the absurd blunders of that campaign arose from the fatal system on which our Army is officered. Tennyson has embalmed the Balaklava charge in immortal verse. When I read Kinglake's harrowing description of it, I was inclined to tear Tennyson's poem out of my volume. Would that some other more faithful bard would pillory in immortal verse the authors of that horrible mistake and let the world know that this blunder was committed by two aristocrats, both of whom bought themselves into their high military position, and both of whom were given their commands in the Crimea, not because they had shown competence for these commands, for neither of them had ever commanded a regiment in war before; but simply because they were aristocrats; and behold the result: by a blunder so crassly stupid that no writer of fiction would ever have imagined it, over 400 out of 600 men were sacrificed! Mr. Editor, I do not believe that two sergeants in all that army could have been found stupid enough to have committed that blunder. No, my Lord Elcho; you never will get soldiers sufficient if you commit them to the lead of such blockheads. The French may well say that our soldiers are lions led by asses.

The remarks I made last week on the system on which jurors are summoned have brought me several communications on the subject. Some of my correspondents adduce instances of hardship inflicted by the present system similar to that I described myself. In one case, two gentlemen are nearly next-door neighbours; they have both lived in the same houses for many years; they are in a similar position in life; they follow the same occupation; and their premises are of nearly the same value. They are therefore in all respects equally eligible; and yet one has been summoned as a juror regularly every year and sometimes oftener, while the other has never been cited at all. How is that to be explained on any rule of fairness? I have also received a pamphlet by Mr. T. W. Erle, associate, Court of Common Pleas, on "The Present System of Summoning Special Juries in London and Middlesex," which is very interesting, but from which I can only quote Mr. Erle's statement of the case and the remedies he proposes. He says:—

The present system, it is submitted, causes the maximum of inconvenience to jurors, is disadvantageous to suitors, and unsatisfactory to all concerned either in the conduct of litigation or the administration of justice. These evils are all avoidable, and by a simple and easy reformation could be entirely removed. The proposed alteration is in the three following respects:—

1. The assimilation of the mode of summoning special jurors in London and Middlesex to that which prevails throughout the whole of the rest of England, by striking one or more general panels to try all the special jury cases entered for any sittings.

2. A more careful revision of the list of persons liable to serve on special juries, and

3. The adoption of arrangements by which the labour of serving may be made to fall more equally on those liable to it.

I have received the July number of *The Life-boat*; or, *Journal of the National Life-boat Institution*, with which I am much pleased. There is an article on the "Deterioration of our Merchant Seamen," and much valuable and interesting information as to the operations of the institution and the services rendered by its life-boats. It appears that the institution has now nearly two hundred life-boats under its charge; that between 800 and 1000 lives are saved every year from shipwrecks on our coasts, mainly through its instrumentality; and that a large and permanent annual income is indispensable to enable the society to maintain its great life-saving fleet in a state of thorough efficiency. I heartily wish the institution and its fleet a continued and increased career of usefulness, and a still more liberal measure of public support. The latter well deserved.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

In the *London Student* was a short report of the annual discussion at, I think, University College. At first I was struck with the idea that there should only be one discussion a year; but, on looking over the report, I soon saw reason to think that one would be enough of the sort. The discussion was upon the question whether the abundant periodical literature of our time did good or harm. What a specimen of the audacity of youth is such a question! The means for answering it to any sensible purpose are obviously beyond the reach of the very best-informed person in the world. To take only a single point that lies very much on the surface of the subject, let us suppose it clearly made out that a given five thousand of people have received a given quantity of harm from periodical literature. This is so much to the bad, no doubt. But let us, again, suppose that one fertile mind has, somewhere or other, received from some portion of this very literature one important suggestion. It is quite possible that this person's mind may, through the effects of this suggestion, influence ten or twenty thousand for good. Nor is the case at all strained. Periodical literature is everywhere, and no human being can tell what is the origin of some of his best ideas. The net takes up all sorts of fish unconsciously, and one time you get a turbot, one time

a trout, and one time a sprat only. To vary the image, the effect of periodical literature depends very much upon the recipient; the stomach turns all food into chyle, and a good reader gets some good out of everything. Suppose some person were to start the question, whether more good or harm were done by free speech, or public discussion, or general conversation? We should, surely, think him rather a silly person. The question about periodical literature is just as idle. At the worst, the bulk of our periodical literature is only printed talk; the best of it is something much higher. Nearly all the education the poor get they get out of cheap periodicals; and I dare to say that no one who really knows the poor will doubt that they receive more benefit than injury from such literature as but I am happy to be able to add that it was answered in the affirmative in the discussion to which I have referred.

Household Words is being reprinted by Messrs. Ward, Lock, and Tyler; four numbers, stitched in a wrapper, for sixpence. No. 9 carries us far back indeed—*tabunt anni*, you know, and all that—for it contains an article on Wordsworth, then recently dead. An article on popular Music catches my eye at once, because we have made such strides since it was written. Look now at the "Monday Pops!" And look at the advertisements for places in scholastic periodicals, and note how rarely you miss seeing the word "harmonium" in the list of qualifications. There is also an article on the idea of a Suez canal, speaking "with diffidence" about it. One other thing I must note. In No. 7 we have the locality, namely, Pewsey Churchyard, in Wiltshire, of the mad epitaph on Lady O'Looney, which will bear quoting again, as it is often misquoted:—"Here lies the body of Lady O'Looney, great-niece of Burke, commonly called the Sublime. She was Bland, Passionate, and deeply Religious. Also she painted in Water Colours, and sent several Pictures to the Exhibition. She was first Cousin to Lady Jones; and of such is the kingdom of Heaven."

The *Scientific Review* and *Journal of the Inventors' Institute* has

the grave fault of being too dear for its quality. A curious example

of the value of one fact more—well calculated to rebuke the arrogance of scientific men of small minds—is found in the discovery of a specimen of the Colebogine, with flowers of both kinds. I never believed for an instant in parthenogenesis myself, and only wonder how fellows can have the patience to discuss it. But the following, from a French man of science, about "Spiritualism," will be more interesting to the majority of your readers, and is well worth quoting:—

While in London twelve months ago I accompanied some friends to several "séances," and was not long in observing that one of the conditions essential to the success of every séance, or, in other terms, to render "the spirits favourably disposed," was to partake of tea, or some kind of refreshment, before the séance began. . . . Now, I have been for several years interested in the investigation of the physiological effects of certain narcotic drugs, having begun some experiments during my residence in the East; and I was not a little surprised, after partaking of the "tea, &c.," at the very first of these séances, to feel coming on the—to me exceedingly familiar—effects of hemp-resin, or *hashish*! The dose thus fraudulently administered must have been tolerably strong, for, accustomed as I have been to experiment on hemp and similar drugs, its effects were, nevertheless, powerful. The success of a spiritualistic séance depends upon the *fantastic* effects produced by this potent drug. The usual exhilarating effects of small doses are, when larger doses are administered, quickly followed by an intense feeling of *bien-être*. Shortly, however, another effect supervenes—the power of controlling the thoughts vanishes, and we believe, or, rather, *we realise most completely everything that is said to us*. It is not unusual, at the same time, to feel oneself rising in the air; in fact, when simply walking across a room, it is impossible not to feel that you are walking in the air, and not upon the ground; all sense of distance is completely gone, and in taking a few steps you imagine, or rather, you feel, that you are travelling for miles. Fancy four or five *imbéciles* undergoing a séance! If the "tea" or "refreshment" is refused, "the spirits are not propitious," or "the séance is, unfortunately, not possible to-night;" the impostors are "very sorry, but it will be necessary to come another evening," &c.

Of course I do not know how much truth there is in this; but it seems worthy of notice.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The revival of *Planché's* once-popular drama, "The Day of Reckoning," at the ADELPHI, serves a useful purpose in illustrating the change in popular taste that has been working during the last twenty years. The public of to-day has become very much more learned in the matter of French translations, and is beginning to look coldly and critically on works that are adapted from a foreign language, particularly if their sources are not acknowledged by the adaptors. Time was when a drama brought equal credit to its author, whether it was an original production, or whether it was an adaptation or a translation. But these halcyon days for second-hand wits are drawing to a close, and critics, going to the opposite extreme, allow no credit whatever to a clever adapter. The public of to-day is much less tolerant of imperfect construction than it once was, and it has almost brought itself to regard a change of scene during an act of a piece that professes to be a comedy as a violation of dramatic unity, or, at all events, as a tacit admission on the part of the author that he is not quite equal to the task he has set himself. Regarded from a modern point of view, "The Day of Reckoning" is not a very satisfactory piece. The dialogue is not very sprightly, the incidents are conventional, and the construction is sloppy. That the piece was not generally so regarded at the time of its first production, I am very well aware; but tastes have changed, and, unless a playgoer is prepared to sit the piece out in the frame of mind of twenty years ago, it is difficult to see what pleasure he can hope to derive from the experiment. Mr. Charles Mathews has a part which seems to sit irksomely upon him—a rôle husband, who embezzles his wife's property and all but connives at what he suspects to be an intrigue on her part with his intimate friend. Miss Leclerc sustained the part of the wife with the curious mixture of delicacy and affectation that characterises most of this lady's impersonations.

I have to thank Mr. F. C. Burnand for a very hearty laugh. His "Fowl Play; or, A Tale of Chikkin Hazard," just produced at the QUEEN'S, is brimful of the most reckless, rollicking fun; and, save, perhaps, in the last scene, never drags. I don't quite see the fun of spelling chicken "chikkin," and here and there, in the course of the dialogue, other enigmas of an equally incomprehensible nature crop up to perplex the reader; but the broad, boisterous fun of the piece more than compensates for these trifling drawbacks. The island scene is a string of the most excellent fooling I have ever seen upon the stage, and Mr. Toole, who is an admirable burlesque actor when he is allowed to have it all his own way, kept the audience in a roar from the beginning to the end of it. However, I cannot help thinking it unfortunate that he should delay the action of the piece for a quarter

for so insignificant a rôle passes my comprehension. Mr. Johnson, the scenic artist, has fully entered into the spirit of the island scene, and deserved the call with which he was honoured—not as an artist, but as a humourist. The dresses are preposterously funny; and if "The Chickaleary Cove," "Not for Joe," and a few other music-hall monstrosities had been omitted, the piece would have afforded no ground whatever for unfavourable criticism. The dialogue is not brilliant; but it was not at all necessary that it should be. It was evidently Mr. Burnard's intention that the fun of the piece should come of broad, practical, comic business, and his intention has been fully carried out by everyone concerned. I have no doubt but that "Fowl Play" will have a long and prosperous run.

"Time and the Hour," a drama by Messrs. Palgrave Simpson and Felix Dale, will be played on Monday next at the QUEEN'S.

The Strand Music Hall is now in process of rapid conversion into a new theatre. It will be opened at Christmas under the name, I believe, of the GAIETY.

NEW REFORM ACT.

The following instructions for claimants under the lodger franchise have been prepared by Mr. Torrens, with the assistance of several of the most experienced revising barristers, and adopted by the registration committee of Finsbury:

By the new Reform Act, every man who for twelve months previous to July 31 has occupied, as sole tenant, the same lodgings which, if unfurnished, would let at the rate of £10 a year, is entitled to claim to be placed on the list of voters. Joint occupiers are disqualified by the Act, which recognises only a claimant who by himself or his family separately occupies the lodgings. The value is a question of fact to be decided by the revising barrister on the evidence brought before him.

If taken unfurnished the rent paid will be accepted *prima facie* as the proof of value. Every person paying 4s. a week rent for unfurnished lodgings will be entitled to claim. If the lodgings are taken furnished, the claimant must show that, exclusive of a reasonable charge for the use of the furniture, the lodgings occupied by him are worth 4s. a week, or £10 a year. Occasional absences during the twelve months will not disqualify, provided no other person occupies in the interval, and provided the rent continues to be paid by the claimant.

The claim must be delivered to the overseers of the parish in which the lodgings are situate not earlier than the 1st, nor later than the 25th of August.

The lodger claim will be published by the overseers, in a separate list, not later than Sept. 1.

Should the claims not appear on the published list of lodgers, then its delivery must be proved before the revising barrister. It is, therefore, desirable to retain a copy of the claim, and to have the means of proving its delivery to the overseers.

The claims having been published after the 25th of August may be objected to at the Revision Court, though no notice of objection has been given either to claimants or overseers. Proof must, therefore, be made before the revising barrister by the claimant, or by some persons authorised on his behalf, of due notice of the claim having been delivered and of the facts regarding his qualifications.

"CLAIM OF LODGER.

"The form of claim given in the schedule of the Reform Act is as follows:—

"BOROUGH OF FINSBURY.

"I hereby claim to be inserted in the list of voters in respect of the occupation of the undermentioned lodgings, and the particulars of my qualifications are stated in the columns below:—

Christian Name and Surname at full length.	Profession, Trade, or Calling.	Description of Lodging, situated, with Number, if any, and Name of Street.	Description of House in which Lodging situated, with Number, if any, and Name of Street.	Name, Description of Landlord, or other Person to whom Rent paid.

"I, the above-named, hereby declare that I have been, during the twelve months immediately preceding the last day of July in this year, the occupier as sole tenant of the above-mentioned lodgings, and that I have resided therein during the twelve months immediately preceding the said last day of July, and that such lodgings are of a clear yearly value, if let unfurnished, of £10 or upwards.

Dated the day of August, 1868.

"Signature of claimant,

"Witness to the signature of the said

"And I certify my belief in the accuracy of the above claim,

"Name of witness,

"Residence and calling."

This claim must bear date the 1st day of August, or some day subsequent thereto, and must be delivered to the overseers after the last day of July, and on or before the 25th day of August.

THE OYSTER ABROAD.—The oysters of Holstein are said to be very fine and good, but scarce; they are very fat, white, thick, and tender, with a very small beard, which distinguishes them from the Norwegian and Scottish oyster; with the former of which two last-named kinds we are recommended "to have nothing to do;" they are mentioned as "things to be shunned." The Bay of Biscay oysters have large beards, like those caught in the south of England. The beard, like the oyster itself, is quite grass green, its flavour is very fine and good, but care must be taken in opening the shell and detaching the oyster not to break the double shell which they mostly possess; for this contains sulphuretted hydrogen, which taints the oyster. American oysters, in the opinion of the same writer, are by no means so delicate as others already mentioned, but are nevertheless superior for cooking; though the Yankees themselves prefer their own large oysters to our best Whitstable natives. French oysters are chiefly taken from beds in the bays of Cancale and St. Brieux, from Marennes, Havre, and Dieppe, Dunkirk, and the Bay of Biscay. The three first are very fine, but the distance to Paris is too great; those from Biscay are highly esteemed in the south of France. Dutch oysters are both good and dear; while Mediterranean oysters, of which the ancients were so fond, are described as "little watery, pulpy dabs."—*Edinburgh Review*.

THE REFORM LEAGUE AND THE CITY MEETING.—At the ordinary weekly meeting of the general council of the Reform League, held on Wednesday night (Mr. Guedalia in the chair), after the transaction of the ordinary business, Mr. G. Odger brought up a report from the committee who been appointed to co-operate with the City reformers in the late meeting upon the Irish Church. The report, after detailing the facts respecting the disturbance of the meeting by bodies of men expressly hired for the purpose, went on to say that, after the conclusion of the meeting on Monday afternoon, the committee succeeded in obtaining from about 407 persons so hired their names and addresses, together with the names and addresses of the persons who had hired and paid them. The names of those persons had been given into the executive committee of the League, whose intention it was to take legal measures to see whether the persons could not be made amenable to the law for their conduct. In the course of the discussion it transpired that the executive council had also under its consideration the propriety of calling a monster meeting in Hyde Park on an early day to protest against the continuance of the Irish Church Establishment, and to denounce the conduct of the so-called Constitutional party at the Guildhall on Monday last. The chairman said the question would come on for consideration next week, when the result of the debate in the Lords would be known.

THE WHITEBAIT AND THE HERRING.—At the last meeting of the Zoological Society, Dr. A. Günther, of the British Museum, gave a resume of his researches into the distinctions between the different fish of the herring family. The British species of this important group are the herring, the sprat, the pilchard (which is identical with the sardines of the French coast), and the two species of shad. These species are readily distinguished from one another by the numbers of their vertebrae and that of their scales, the relative position of the fins and that of the teeth. One of the most important results arrived at by this eminent ichthyologist is the absolute identity of the whitebait and herring. In the last volume of the "Catalogue of Fishes in the British Museum," Dr. Günther describes the whitebait as a purely nominal species introduced into science in deference to the opinion of fishermen and gourmands, and states that every example of whitebait examined by himself were young herrings. The late Mr. Yarrell, who has been followed by most naturalists, regarded whitebait as a distinct fish, but the circumstances that it has the same number of vertebrae (fifty-six) as the mature herring, the same number of lateral scales, and an identical arrangement of fins and teeth, a combination of characters found in no other fish, prove conclusively that it is the fry or young of the herring; moreover, an adult whitebait in roe has never been discovered. With regard to the effect on the supply of herrings occasioned by the destruction of the young fry, it is probable that the number of eggs deposited by the mature herring is so large and disproportionate to the number of fish that attain maturity that the capture of a portion of the fry could have no appreciable result in diminishing the multitude of mature fish.

Literature.

A Book About Boys. By A. R. HOPE, Author of "A Book About Dominies." Edinburgh: William P. Nimmo.

Our readers, we doubt not, will remember a certain "Book About Dominies," noticed in these columns some time since. That work was issued anonymously, but the general favour with which it was received has induced the author not only to publish a second volume of essays, but to avow the authorship of the other book. In "A Book About Boys" Mr. Hope deals with quite as congenial a theme as that he handled when treating of dominies. Indeed, both books may be said to be upon the same subjects—boys and schoolmasters; for the present work is in a large measure an expansion of certain portions of the previous one and a compression of others—that is, those divisions of the author's first book that treated, briefly, of boys are here expanded and amplified; while those in which he spoke of schoolmasters are condensed. The second book, in fact, is an echo of the first; but the echo is so pleasant in sound and so wholesome in association, and, withal, so varied in tone and illustration, that no one can regret that Mr. Hope has said his say twice over—he has played two tunes on the same chord. In regard both to boys and their teachers, Mr. Hope is thoroughly qualified to speak; he is himself a schoolmaster, and his whole life has been passed in instructing youth. He is, consequently, thoroughly conversant with the idiosyncrasies at once of the master and pupil order of beings. He is, moreover, gifted with great powers of observation, with some capacity for philosophising, with much quaint humour and non-malicious satire, and with genuine kindness of disposition and a thorough sympathy with boy nature. It is, therefore, not surprising that he has produced two really excellent books, which are not a whit less enjoyable because very much resembling each other.

Mr. Hope's ideas on the subject of education, though not exactly original, are, nevertheless, not commonplace. He does not belong to the optimist—"whatever is, is right"—school of educationists. Like Professor D'Arcy Thompson, he sees many faults in the prevailing system of school instruction, and desires to introduce many reforms. Indeed, it is not a little remarkable to find two men so thoroughly competent to judge and fully entitled to speak on this vitally important subject as Mr. Hope and Professor Thompson developing ideas so closely resembling those of each other. In the Professor's "Wayside Thoughts" and Mr. Hope's books about "Dominies" and "Boys" there is a similarity of thought, a breadth of view, and a freedom of expression that are at once striking and refreshing. With such champions in the lists, educational reform must be a thing of not distant accomplishment; and we would recommend mere "gerund-grinders" and routine-mongers immediately to set about putting their houses in order, for there will assuredly ere long be a great troubling of the scholastic waters.

There are, in Mr. Hope's eyes, boys and boys. He discriminates one order of boys from another with great nicety, and, in classifying them, exhibits much quaint humour. Thus, he says:—

My heart goes with all boys, but especially with a thoroughly boyish boy. I don't think much of your gentlemanly, neat boys, and I abominate such pretty effeminate boys; and I have not so much faith as some people in even your good, clever boys, who are always at the head of their classes and never do anything naughty, except when it is not found out. But I like the happy, healthy, unspiritualised boy, who is a boy, and not a young gentleman; active, restless, generous, brave, truthful, simple, and pure-minded; who thinks it half a pleasure to bear pain without crying, climbs trees, tears his trousers, has frequent tumbles, bumps, and bruises, and comes home now and then splashed over with mud. But I must take care what I am saying, for, between you and me, reader, I dare not confess all the qualities which are essential and non-essential to my idea of boyhood, lest prudent mammas and aunts, who can't see the difference between boys and girls, should proclaim me a heretic, and ban me from the domestic library.

In this sense, then, with some latitude, will I use the word boy in the following pages. Yet, upon second thoughts, it may be as well to caution the reader, *scrutinum*, concerning certain young animals of the male sex, who, having the outward appearance and similitude of boys, are, nevertheless, not exactly boys, and will not be included in any general proposition which I may lay down as affecting the species.

1. YOUNG GENTLEMEN.—I shudder as I pen the disgusting name. You know what I mean?—the beardless beings who wish to be thought men and dandies; and to that end smoke, and swear, and swagger with more or less impunity. If you go out into the streets on a Saturday afternoon, you will see hundreds of them whom you would like to take between your finger and thumb and drop quietly into the gutter.

2. MAMMA'S DARLINGS.—A large and increasing class, I grieve to say, though I would speak tenderly of them, believing that their degradation is often caused by circumstances over which neither they nor the wisest of writers and teachers, have any control—viz., fond and foolish mothers, who will make them wear comforters and goloshes, and keep them in the house when it is cold, and encourage them to cry when they are hurt.

3. CLEVER BOYS.—I mean preternaturally clever boys, who read Sir Walter Scott at the tender age of five, but having thereafter been introduced to Greek, look with scorn and contempt on all subjects of lighter interest, and never condescend to open another story-book, but spend their boyhood and youth in steadily and perseveringly drying themselves up into Latin and Greek mummies, and, if haply they escape premature death, end by becoming sound and venerable and not too brilliant bishops, or stupid and useless schoolmasters, or writers of soul-apalling commentaries.

4. GOOD BOYS.—I mean very good boys, who always try to please their masters, and never are noisy or idle, and would sink into the ground with shame if it were found necessary to punish them, and whose conversation, in story-books, is of the most moral and grammatical description. Of course, there are such boys, because the story-books say so; but it has never been my good fortune to meet with them.

Having let our readers see what is Mr. Hope's idea of a genuine boy, we will extract a short passage descriptive of his own qualifications for treating of them, and then leave his work with the expression of our hearty commendations and our firm conviction that all who read it will derive both pleasure and profit from the perusal. On page 10 our author says,

I have been the companion of boys all my life: I have taught them ever since I became a man. All along I have looked upon them not as receptacles for Latin grammar and copy-book precepts, but as young and blessed human beings, with minds to be nurtured, hearts to be won, souls to be saved. I have tried to understand their thoughts, to enter into their feelings, to sympathise with their joys and sorrows. Thus, I may say with truth that I have learned more among boys than I have taught. So, speaking in the character and from the point of view of a schoolmaster, I gird up my loins to write a book about boys, which may not only amuse but also instruct and improve the lay and ignorant portions of the community.

Love's Matchless Might; or, Blanche—Her Choice. By HENRY HOPKINSON. London: Chapman and Hall.

It is difficult to determine Mr. Hopkinson's intention in writing "Love's Matchless Might." Did he intend to amuse, to interest, or to mystify his readers? Perhaps the matter may be settled in this way. One kind of ordinary people, the dense kind, will take it seriously, and be violently affected; another kind of ordinary people—those who never miss a chance of seeing anything funny—will roar with laughter; and the third kind of ordinary people—those with one solitary gleam of intelligence—will be mystified, and will lay the book down, and say of Mr. Hopkinson, "What does the fellow mean?" This, of course, does not determine Mr. Hopkinson's intention in writing his novel; but it shows how it may be considered from three points of view. After careful consideration, then, as is our duty, we come to the conclusion that the author intended to write a serious romance; but, in plain English, he has written one of the most grotesque burlesques upon the "Minerva Press" novels which we have ever read.

Here is a faint echo of the story. Scene—London, in the present day. Blanche is the daughter of a wealthy gentleman who wished her to marry a man whom she dislikes. Blanche goes out Bittle-reading, and at a first interview with a very poor mechanic she and the mechanic fall in love. She throws roses to him from a window. He saves her from a mad bull—which reminds us of "Sandford and Merton," and Mr. Lewes's "Rose, Blanche, and Violet." (By-the-way, there have been no bulls mad or sane in London in the daytime for many years.) They meet at all hours of the day and night, Blanche houssing her papa as to her reason for going out, which is certainly not very Scripture-reader-like. At last her secret is found out, and her papa fixes an evening for solemnly "contracting" her

to the gentleman of his choice; for papa quite forgets that Blanche is twenty-four years old, and that he has no more legal control over her than the man in the moon has. In this dilemma she sends for her lover, the mechanic Richard, who appears, and talks to the half-dozen gentlemen in this fashion, when asked how he can keep a wife and remonstrated with upon the unequal match—"By the sacred sweat of labour, man's curse and yet his blessing; by the exercise of which his food tastes sweeter to him, and his sleep is more pure, deep, and peaceful! . . . Oh! love waits not upon consideration, but strikes the heart all irresistible; for nature guides, and no dictation takes, no more than as in spring she sends forth flowers when genial sunshine gilds the fruitful earth." Then comes papa's curse and the marriage of the young people. When they are nearly starving, Richard insults Blanche's father and borrows a sovereign from him. This, oddly enough, leads to the old gentleman leaving Blanche half his fortune; but when he dies it seems that by the machinations of his son John he has signed the wrong will, and John comes in for all. Never mind; Richard is quite equal to the occasion; and, although there is the deadliest enmity between the two men, he manages to bully John out of half the property in a very few minutes. Arcadian bliss, of course, closes the scene.

As a rule, one-volume novels are liked, if only on the ground that they contain but one third the usual amount of nonsense. But this one-volume contains more nonsense than one hundred ordinary volumes put together. The little speech given above is a fair specimen of the high stilt on which the sentimentalism stalks through the pages. The mad rage of the old father, and the cynical blackguardism of the younger men, are equally exaggerations—if, indeed, they be like life at all. The Byrons, Broughs, and Burnands must look to their laurels, as far as burlesques goes.

Stone Edge. With Four Illustrations. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

The one-volume novels published by Messrs. Smith and Elder are always welcome, but "Stone Edge" comes with its own recommendation from the *Cornhill Magazine*. The charm of the story is that it arrests attention at once. The unhappy death of the little child turns Cassandra's hatred of her stepmother into love, and that kind of interest runs throughout. The rapid lovemaking of Cassandra and Roland is pretty and natural, and the way in which subsequent events are not suffered to alter their affection leads us up to the epithet *beautiful*. It is impossible not to like most of the people in the story, although it is not every Londoner who could claim to understand them, on account of the eccentricity of the north English dialect. Again, as a point of art, the punishment of the guilty men is most satisfactory—the accidental death of the one has nothing appalling in it, and casts no fresh odium on the family; whilst, as for the actual murderer, he is too shadowy to raise a care. It is not difficult to imagine at first that "Stone Edge" is going to have much more of the "Auld Robin Gray" element in it—the complete ballad—than it has. And at the end it is impossible not to see that it has much of the feeling of some of Tennyson's idylls (not the "Idylls"), the mixture of rough and tender nature, culminating in something not altogether sorrowful. It is an admirable story.

The Popular Educator: A Complete Encyclopaedia of Elementary, Advanced, and Technical Education. New and Revised Edition. Vol. I. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

"Cassell's Popular Educator" has already done first-rate service to thousands of young men since it was first issued; and now, in its revised form, will be sure to do good service to thousands more. After being so many years before the public, the work is its own best recommendation; and our duty now is amply discharged when we advise all who wish to learn quickly, easily, and accurately, to obtain and study "Cassell's Popular Educator."

ALL DOGS found in the streets of the metropolis not led or muzzled are, on and after Wednesday next, July 1, to be apprehended by the police, and dealt with according to the provision in the new Street Traffic Act.

THE BRISTOL ELECTION COMMITTEE have declared the last election null and void in consequence of bribery, treating, and perversion of voters having been practised by the agents of Mr. Miles, though without his knowledge.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY DINNER of the Cobden Club took place yesterday evening at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich—the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., in the chair. There were present about 120 members of the House of Commons belonging to the Liberal party, together with a numerous body of members and visitors.

THE MARQUIS OF SALAMANCA has several palaces, castles, and other residences, but one amongst the latter is about a quarter of a mile from Madrid, between the Porta del Toledo and Carabanchel, and is named Vista Alegre. A few days ago fourteen men, armed to the teeth, entered the house, carried off £4000 in gold; and, probably to sanctify their proceedings, walked away with a silver statue of the Virgin, wearing a crown of gold, besides two Christs in silver, plateaux, candelabra, and precious stones, set and unset.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPHY.—Some interesting facts in the history of telegraphic communication are given by Herr Neumann in an official report recently published at Vienna. It appears from this report that a Russian telegraphic agency exists at Pekin, through which messages are transmitted from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. The line is now being carried to Behring's Strait by Okhotsk; and, if the plan of the United States Government to establish a telegraph through the territory lately ceded to it by Russia is carried out, there will soon be an uninterrupted line of telegraphs round the earth. The longest line in the world is that between San Francisco and St. John's, Newfoundland, a distance of 300 geographical miles. Herr Neumann annexes to his report some statistical tables, showing that the total length of the European telegraphs is 53,340 geographical miles; of those in America, 14,239; of those in Asia, 4736; of those in Australia, 1842; of those in Africa, 1504—exclusive of submarine lines. There are in all 1200 telegraph stations, and the number of persons employed in them is about 38,000. The total weight of the wires is calculated at 1,300,000 cwt., and there are about 7,500,000 telegraph posts, which it costs £200 a year to keep up. The



THE KÖNIGSSEE, BAVARIA.

PRINCE MICHAEL OBRENOVITCH.

THE Prince whose assassination has so suddenly changed the aspect of Servian affairs was first called to the government in 1839, after the abdication of his father, Milosch, and the death of his eldest brother, Milan; and again undertook the government of the principality on his father's death, in 1860. Servia has been under the rule of native Princes ever since 1815; but it was placed under the protection of what are called the great European Powers as a semi-independent State by the treaty of Paris, of March 30, 1856, the twenty-eighth article of that treaty providing that "the principality of Servia shall continue to hold of the Sublime Porte, in conformity with the Imperial decrees which fix and determine its rights and immunities, placed henceforward under the collective guarantee of the contracting Powers. In consequence, the said principality shall preserve its independent and national administration, as well as full liberty of worship, of legislation, of commerce, and of navigation." The election of its rulers is left to the Servian nation, but requires nominally the sanction of the Turkish Government. The executive power is carried on by the Prince, assisted by a council of five Ministers, responsible to the nation; the legislative authority being exercised by two independent bodies—the Senate and the "Skupstchina," or House of Representatives. The Senate consists of seventeen members, nominated by the Prince, one for each of the seventeen departments into which the country is divided. This body is always sitting. The "Skupstchina" is composed of deputies chosen by the people at the rate of one deputy to every 2000 electors, the electors being the males of the country above the age of twenty-one years paying direct taxes, and not being either domestic servants or gypsies, both these classes being excluded from the suffrage. Every elector is eligible to become a member of the Skupstchina, except Government officials and the clergy. The respective provinces of the Senate and the Skupstchina are not very clearly defined. The Senate, however, has no constitutional power to make or to alter the laws, but it authorises the expenditure of the country, and by its votes the taxation is apportioned. The accession of the late Prince Michael to power on Sept. 26, 1860, was characterised by a number of family intrigues which were productive of prolonged political troubles. He was then thirty-five years old, and had already had some experience of the high position to which he was called, from the fact of his having taken the rule during his father's previous temporary abdication. In 1853, twelve years before his regular succession to the government, he had married Countess Julia Hunyadi, who survives to mourn his untimely death.

"KOENIGSSEE."

TRAVELLERS bound for Vienna who take the pleasant route by way of Salzburg will see so much of the charming German scenery that they may consider themselves set up for the rest of their lives with reminiscences of the picturesque. To say nothing of Salzburg itself—of which we have had recently to speak, in connection with

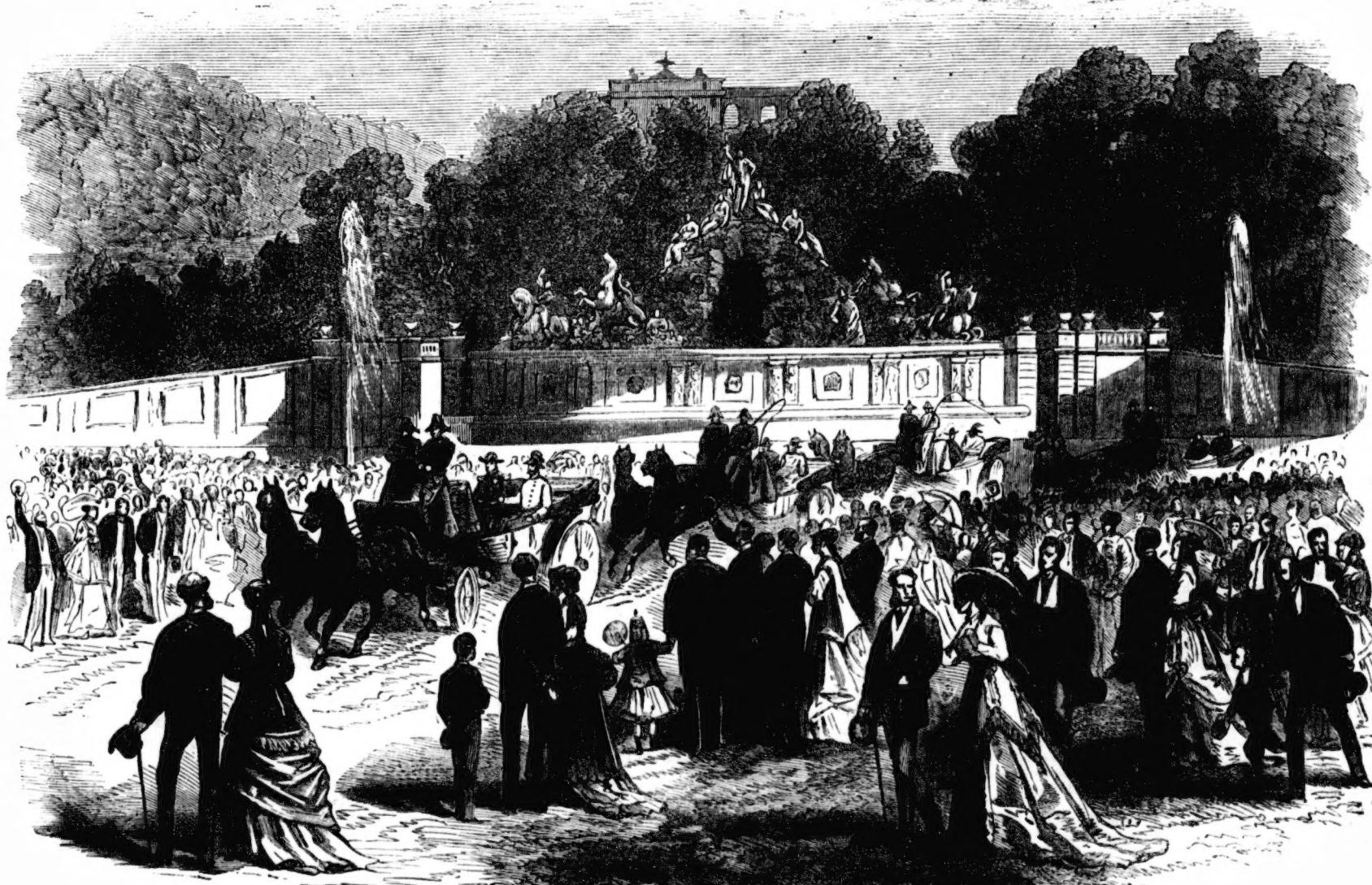
Imperial visits and international courtesies—there are all the wonderful places on the route to engage the attention of the holiday tourist; and the means of conveyance have so greatly increased since first the red-covered guide-books of Mr. Murray taught us where to go and what to see, that a journey once regarded as difficult, if not positively hazardous, has become a mere day's jaunt. There was one journey, however, which was always within the compass of a day's pleasure trip, if the visitor would only follow the example of the good people of Salzburg, and rise early—the excursion to Berchtesgaden and the borders of the King's Lake, through

miles behind this house is the ice chapel, or glacier, in reality nothing but a heap of snow, which remains frozen even in summer, at the bottom of a wild and sheltered glen at the base of the Watzman. The traveller who is rowed to the head of the lake, about a mile and a half beyond the Jagdschloss, may cross a neck of land about three quarters of a mile wide to the Obersee, a miniature lake, three miles in diameter, inclosed by vertical precipices of bare limestone rock—a savage and magnificent scene, which affords a fine contrast and fitting supplement to the magnificent spectacle of the Koenigsee.



THE LATE PRINCE MICHAEL OF SERVIA.

the most agreeable scenery, and commencing by winding round the base of the Untersberg, a mountain 6200 ft. high, in whose mysterious caverns, according to popular belief, the Emperor Barbarossa and his mailed knights are imprisoned until the day of judgment. Wonderful are the legends of this wild region, abounding in all the elements of the dark and terrible tales of gnomes and spirits of the mines and the mountains—awful narratives of the beings who guard the hidden treasures in the dreary chasms beneath those rocks where the vulture makes its nest! The wild scenery alternates, however, with splendid forests, where the great cock of the woods roosts amidst the trees; and the quarries of red and white marble have furnished the material for the new palatial buildings of Munich. A narrow defile, called "The Pass of the Overhanging Rock," through which the small river Albe forces its way, between the base of the Untersberg and the Hohe Göhl, leads into the territory of Berchtesgaden. A rock by the roadside bears the inscription, "Pax intrantibus et habitantibus." A little further on, and after passing the village of Schellenberg, the valley opens out, and the gigantic Watzman, 8250 ft. high, raises his snow-clad and double-horned head above Berchtesgaden. Three miles further on is the celebrated lake Koenigsee, of which we publish an Engraving from an original painting. The road terminates at the very margin of the splendid piece of water, close to a small inn, where boats or canoes, often rowed by women, may be hired to convey parties to the further end of the lake, a distance of about six miles. The scenery of this celebrated lake is singularly grand and impressive in character, by reason of the great height of the mountains which wall it in on all sides, rising perpendicularly from its margin so as to leave no foreland at their base and scarcely affording space even for a landing-place. The water is of the deepest green, and its sombre depths appear almost black under the shadows of the mighty mountains clad with dark forests of fir. The distant bells of the cattle feeding on the Alpine meadows are alone heard in this solitude, whose precipices and snow-clad ridges are the peculiar haunt of the eagle and the chamois. During the Royal hunts of a few years ago it was not uncommon for forty or fifty chamois to be driven in by a circle of peasants, who encompassed the woods for that purpose, and drove the animals to take to the water of the lake, where they were shot by the sportsmen from boats. On a tongue of land on the right hand, near the upper end, stands the Jagdschloss, the walls of which are decorated with portraits of enormous fish—salmon, of 20 lb. to 30 lb. weight—taken from the lake. Three



VISIT OF PRINCE NAPOLEON TO SCHONBRUNN,

PRINCE NAPOLEON IN GERMANY.

PRINCE NAPOLEON is again upon one of those tours to which he is so much addicted, and which never fail to elicit a considerable degree of curiosity and no small amount of speculation as to motives, objects, &c. His destination on this occasion is Constantinople; but as he passed through Germany he visited several places and a number of persons of note on the way. It seems that his Imperial Highness travels in a sort of semi-incognito; and we are told that the most pleasant hours of his journey to Vienna were spent in the company of those whose policy least agrees with his own. The Grand-Ducal family of Baden, ardently attached as it is to unity principles, gave the distinguished foreigner a polite reception, a state dinner, and all that. The Württemberg Court, and this from warmer feelings than mere courtesy inspires, would have been but too happy to imitate the example set by their antagonistic neighbours of Carlsruhe. But the traveller would not be feted at Stuttgart. The Czar's influence upon his Württemberg sister has of late prevented her husband seconding French politics in Germany as assiduously as might otherwise have been expected of him. Of course the omission must be resented by a certain amount of demonstrative frigidity. But the Prince's anger did not extend to Herr von Varnbüler, the versatile Premier, with whom he had a two hours' conversation on current events. Its purport, the Stuttgart anti-Prussian papers, with shameless significance, assert, will be known when Germany, assassinated at Sadowa, rises from the dead. Next, when the Prince came to Munich, he found the Court out of town, and no arrangements made for either feast or politics. Young King Ludwig, taking him at his word, and manifesting the most implicit belief in the alleged sight-seeing character of his trip, so strictly respected the princely incognito as not even to come to town from the neighbouring château of Berg. Under these circumstances, what else could the Prince do than leave? To have called on Prince Hohenlohe, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or to have signified a wish to be called upon by him, would have been love's labour lost. Though not in a hurry to effect complete reunion, Prince Hohenlohe (whose family greatness, by-the-way, culminates in the Prussian branch of his house) is the most patriotic of Germans. The only visit, consequently, his Imperial Highness received while in the Bavarian capital was from the French Minister. As regards his sojourn at Vienna and the political intercourse he indulged in, we extract a passage from a letter from a North German gentleman there, who is said to be well placed to see what is going on when the curtain is drawn up, and also when it is down. Among other things, he says:—

"The radical difference between Vienna and Berlin has been again brought out by Prince Napoleon's journey. While the Prince was so completely ignored by Berlin society as to make him complain that, go where he would, none but official faces, and these always the same, met his bored gaze, politicians of all shades may be found waiting in his ante-chamber at Vienna. His travelling companions, and above all M. Scheffer, the clever Alsatian who is supposed to know all about the East, and will act as his interpreter down the Danube, are being applied to from all sides to admit them to the presence. There are the Polea, eager to pour out their sufferings to the professional friend of the oppressed. Two, MM. Ragawski and Rogalski, have been already received, to hear Russia called the image with the feet of clay, which may reveal its crumbling propensities before long. As ready an access is accorded to the sons of Hungary who have contributed to cure Austria's malady upon the Napoleonic prescription. With them he laughs at Roumanian independence, and the ratcatching community of Slovackia, Russia's van in her menacing advance upon the Austrian empire. Politicians here may be broadly divided into two parties, some, retaining the traditional policy of the State to which they belong, would not scruple to go to war with Germany the very day they could make sure of French assistance. The advocates of such a course are to be found chiefly in military and clerical circles. You should see them nodding and beckoning to the cousin of their cherished patron, in hopes that he will understand the pantomimic language of their yearning hearts. It is needless to say that the Hanover Court is constantly attending upon him. The other section of Vienna politicians are too German to indulge in allusions of such an explosive nature. But even these cannot deny themselves the piquant delight of accosting the foreign luminary, whose easy manners are in such interesting contrast to the reserve of their own Royalties, and will glibly discuss with him, in the space of a gossiping half-hour, the affairs of this and neighbouring planets. The task is all the more grateful as the Prince is in the habit of speaking rather than listening on these voyages of discovery, and whilst possesses the extreme politeness of modifying his views to suit the audience *pro tem.* So the Germans, in calling upon him, need not be afraid of having their feelings wounded by an excess of Hungarian or Polish sympathies. What he tells his Teutonic friends, with an air of genial communicativeness, is primarily that the sort of unity established by their northern countrymen two years ago will of itself fall to pieces at no distant period. In his opinion it needs no Napoleonic attack to effect a consummation certain to come off in the unaided course of events. 'A Napoleonic invasion of Germany,' he says, 'besides being unnecessary to secure this end, would be also inadvisable. Austria particularly would suffer from it. Were France to engage Prussia the first shot fired on the banks of the Rhine would be the signal for Russia to seize Galicia and the Danubian Principalities. France at such a juncture would be unable to come to the rescue, while England—*tête à tête* Jerome Napoleon—would be scarcely strong enough to prevent the East from going to rack and ruin. The one thing to be done was to restrain Russia, and this would not be so very difficult of accomplishment either. In protecting Turkey one could not, however, conceal from oneself that the Ottoman empire scarcely deserves being defended against all comers, if it will contribute nothing towards its own consolidation. That the Turks would mend their ways was more than could be expected. It was apparently contrary to their nature to accommodate themselves to the requirements of European civilisation. At their best, they would make an effort, and proclaim, pathetically and with a parade of sententious language, grand principles, while practically leaving everything as muddled as ever. It was the fertile task of the present age to remodel their affairs. These suggestions the Prince ordinarily intersperses with humouristic references to that ridiculous attempt of the Czechians to assist Russia in her antagonism to Sultan and Kaiser. I dare say that, until he gets to Prague and Bucharest, his opinions on the claims of the Slave and Wallachian races to influence the course of events will have been sufficiently toned down to enable him to turn his conversational talent to as good account there as here. If any colour may be said to predominate in the polychromatic hues of his political creed, it is hatred of Russia and contempt of Turkey. The Prince speaks as though he wished to create an impression that something might be undertaken against them both. Although it would be going too far to identify his words with his politics, or his politics with those of the Emperor, there is nothing to preclude the assumption that the loquacious cousin has by the reticent one been sent flying about the world as a *bulletin d'essai*. The many and prolonged interviews of Prince Napoleon with the Austrian Ministers, especially with Baron Beust and Count Andrassy, are, as a matter of course, hidden from public cognizance. It is only an inference from what has gone before if I say that they have partly turned on the question whether the Empire has really gained in strength from the new political arrangements. In conclusion, let me observe that, fully as interesting as anything the Prince confides to his unofficial friends in the silence he observes towards them respecting the probable bearing of Germany should his schemes ever approach realisation."

Our Engraving represents the Prince on his way to visit Schönbrunn, whither he was escorted by the Emperor Francis Joseph and Baron von Beust. On leaving Vienna for Pesth, the Prince, like a consistent democrat, took the regular steam-boat which leaves Vienna every morning for Pesth, and went down among the crowd of passengers, which was, of course, unusually great, it having been known that he would leave Vienna on that day. The fine day, some fine river scenery, especially in the last portion of the journey, and

crowds of cheering people at every station where the steamer stopped, were well calculated to produce a favourable impression. A special steamer was advertised to go up to meet him at Waitzen, some fifteen miles up the river, and a good number of ladies and gentlemen availed themselves of the opportunity to combine a pleasant trip up the river with a demonstration. The steamer took up its position in the middle of the river in front of the town, which was decorated with French and Hungarian flags, and where a crowd of people and the almost indispensable mortars were awaiting the arrival of the down steamer. The crowd cheered, the mortars were let off, and the steamer, preceded by the one which met the Prince, came down to the capital. The fine square which opens out on the landing-place, and on the other side of which is the Hotel d'Europe, where apartments had been prepared for the Prince, was crowded with some 5000 people, who had already cleared their throats by cheering Count Andrassy, who came to meet the Prince, and who therefore surpassed themselves when the Prince, accompanied by Andrassy, got into the carriage and drove off to his hotel, followed by the rushing crowd. Here the crowd took position before the hotel, and remained there till the Prince came out on the balcony, thus giving them another opportunity of seeing and cheering him before going home.

DUELLING IN ITALY.—Since 1860 there have been a great many duels in Italy, often for frivolous causes, and usually ending with very slight injury to the parties engaged. But an encounter of unusual ferocity has just occurred at Parma, between a Lieutenant of bersaglieri and an ex-Garibaldian. The duel was to be "to the death," and commenced with pistols; but apparently the combatants were poor marksmen, as they fired four shots each without any damage being done. They then took to sabres, and the Garibaldian received seven wounds, none of them dangerous. The bersaglieri was wounded in four places, and two of the wounds, in the head, are said to be dangerous. The duel had to be suspended. A lady is reported to have been the cause of the quarrel. Late, at Milan, a retired officer of the army, who is now editor of a newspaper, brought a whole regiment upon his hands by some satirical remarks upon its officers. He had a series of duels, in nearly all of which he came off conqueror.

SHOCKING DEATH OF A CLERGYMAN.—On Monday a very painful sensation was caused in North Shields by the discovery of the body of the Rev. J. D'Evelyan, the senior Curate of the parish church, who must have been lying dead in his bed-room a week. Mr. D'Evelyan and his family had occupied the parsonage, but some short time ago they had gone for a few weeks to the watering-place of Croft for a change of air. No one occupied the parsonage in their absence. On Saturday week Mr. D'Evelyan returned and slept by himself in the house, and on Sunday week he conducted a portion of the service at the parish church. He had not subsequently been seen alive. The clergy expected that he had returned to Croft, and the fact that the parsonage remained closed confirmed that impression; but on Monday last, Mr. D'Evelyan never having appeared at Croft, Mrs. D'Evelyan and family returned. On opening the hall door of the parsonage a strong smell was perceived, and, upon proceeding to Mr. D'Evelyan's bed-room, to their horror the members of the household found Mr. D'Evelyan lying dead on the floor in his nightdress, and his body far advanced in decomposition. It was evident that the unfortunate gentleman had slept on the bed all night, and upon rising in the morning to dress had fallen on the floor in a fit, and, there being no one in the house to assist him, he had died, and had lain dead a week. Disease of the heart is supposed to have been the cause of death.

NOVA SCOTIA AND CANADA.—The bearings of the Nova-Scotian question are illustrated in a temperate and instructive report which has been prepared by Mr. Haliburton, native of Nova Scotia, who was lately delegated by "the various investigative societies of mechanics at Halifax" to go to Canada and examine the confederation scheme. He shows very clearly that the antecedents of his province have unfitted it for standing alone. A century of Government contracts and countenances has rendered the citizens of Halifax indisposed to rely on their own resources. The Act of Confederation became law at a time when they were grieving over a loss of trade owing to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States. This was a severe blow to Nova Scotia. Her "coal trade, large though it has been, was only in its infancy, new mines were being opened, and an unlimited export would have been in a short time supplied, had not almost all operations in new mines been interrupted by the action of the American Government. The suspension of the export of agricultural products and of our fish was an almost equally heavy blow." It is possible to stop commercial intercourse by arbitrary legislation; but it is not so easy to open up at a moment's notice new channels for the sale of commodities. What is urgently required is the establishment of intercolonial trade, so that the eastern and western provinces may exchange the coal, for which the former cannot find a market, for the grain which the latter has in superabundance. The fault of the Dominion Parliament is that it has contributed nothing towards this result. A little labour expended upon providing facilities for trade would prove more efficacious in quelling discontent than the most vigorous measures of repression. Mr. Haliburton has indicated what might be done, and there is no reason why his propositions should not be adopted as the policy of the Canadian Government. He believes that were inter-colonial trade fully developed, Nova Scotia would gain more than she had lost owing to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and that confederation would thus prove a great boon to her.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE.—At the recent yearly meeting of the Society of Friends, many of the most influential members expressed their wish that the denomination might more actively and generally co-operate with the efforts of the Peace Society. Mr. Henry Pease (late M.P. for South Durham) spoke of the late anniversary meeting of that association, over which he presided, and would have been pleased to see a still larger attendance of his brethren than even the considerable number who were present. He alluded also to the decease of Mr. Edward Smith, of Sheffield, and Mr. Sturge, of Birmingham, men who had devoted themselves most energetically and perseveringly to the promulgation of pacific principles. Now that these and similar leaders of the cause have been removed by death, it is doubly important that their survivors should seriously consider their own opportunities and responsibilities as to this question. Mr. John Pease recurred to the lamentable increase of military armaments of late years, and dwelt in particular upon the condition of France, where nearly 800,000 men are compelled to lead the demoralising life of soldiers, being driven, almost irresistibly, into licentiousness, withdrawn from useful civil industry, and taught only to slaughter and destroy their race. These considerations should excite our increased efforts to promote peace principles. Mr. EH Jones, of Maine, U.S., mentioned that £250,000,000 sterling are annually spent upon military armaments by Christian nations, whilst hundreds of thousands of their citizens are suffering from misery, ignorance, poverty, and starvation. Mr. Lean and other speakers feared that the successful termination of the Abyssinian expedition would stimulate a war spirit in the minds of the public; hence the need for counteractive efforts. Mr. Joseph Pease recommended the wide distribution of the excellent illustrated tracts just issued by the Peace Society. These tracts are prepared especially for distribution amongst the working classes and young persons, and may be obtained at the Peace Office, 19, New Broad-street, London, E.C., for eighteen pence per hundred. The engravings are very effective and the type clear and good.

NEW MARKET AT KING'S-CROSS.—A new market will be shortly opened at King's-cross, which will supply a want long felt by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, and relieve them of the difficulty they have hitherto found in procuring butchers' meat, fish, vegetables, and other provisions of a wholesome quality and at a reasonable price. The building, which is not yet completed, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of the metropolitan termini on the Great-Northern, Midland, Metropolitan, and London and North-Western lines of railway. The immense quantities of fish arriving from the Yorkshire coast by the Great Northern line can be shunted into the market, the arrival platform of that company's station being within a few yards. The fish can thus be ready for sale at King's-cross within twelve hours after removal from the sea. This is, of course, a very great advantage, the fish at present being shaken so much in transit from the railway to the different parts of London as to deprive them of the freshness they would have if the journey could be dispensed with. It will also considerably lessen the price, as the fish sold in Billingsgate Market also comes to the metropolis by the Great Northern line, and are taken to the City from King's cross at much additional cost for the cartage. The same benefit will be found in the matter of eggs, poultry, butter, and other perishable provisions. The market hall is constructed on a very excellent plan, everything both inside and outside being free from unnecessary ornamentation, and as plain and serviceable as possible. The roof of the building has some excellent features. It is constructed in three parts, each sloping towards the south, and with perpendicular lights to the opposite direction. The interior will consequently, in the heat of summer, be cool and airy. The market is intended for both wholesale and retail business. For the former, a large part of the building has been set apart, and ice-cellars are provided for stock to be kept in; and for the latter, eighty-six stalls will be erected in the main building, at which the general public will deal. There are two large entrances to the hall from the spacious yard in front, one on each side of a fountain, which will be placed in the centre of the yard. The entire cost will be covered by £40,000, this estimate including the price of the land, about an acre and a quarter, around the building. The works are being constructed by Mr. J. T. Robinson, of Kentish Town, and the enterprise is, we believe, of a private nature. It deserves success, and will, no doubt, attain it. Already a number of stalls have been taken, and, before the opening, every place will probably be filled.

FRENCH OPERA.

LONDON, at this particular season, is honoured by the presence of all the most distinguished *prima donnas* in Europe. And, as if Patti, Nilsson, Lucca, Titiens, and Kellogg were not enough, Mademoiselle Schneider, the celebrated representative of the Grand Duchess of Gerolstein, has arrived, and on Monday made her first appearance (of course, in the character of the Grand Duchess) at the St. James's Theatre. Mademoiselle Schneider was received with an enthusiasm which told that among those who applauded her were numerous old friends. In fact, no one who has once heard this artist can readily forget her. She is a better actress than most singers, and a better singer than most actresses. She is also something of a dancer; although the grotesque pas which brings the second act of "The Grand Duchess" to a conclusion must, we fancy, have disappointed many persons who expected a much more exaggerated style of performance than was actually offered to them. We have so often spoken of the plot, the characters, and the chief incidents of "The Grand Duchess" that to recur to them would be to fatigue our readers. The whole interest of the performance is centred in Mademoiselle Schneider's representation of the principal character, which is a triumph from beginning to end. To cite points in an impersonation so successful throughout would be superfluous. But it is impossible not to call attention to the effective manner in which the air "Dites lui" is sung. The mixture of sentiment and fun with which on the opening night, Mademoiselle Schneider gave the well-known appeal to the heartless Fritz enchanted the audience, who, with one voice, called upon her to repeat it. M. Offenbach's "Belle Hélène," in which Mademoiselle Schneider will take the principal part, is in preparation.

THE SHOEBURYNESS EXPERIMENTS ON THE PLYMOUTH FORT SHIELD.

THE result of the experiments last week against the target representing this work show conclusively that the normal resistance of its weakest part is just overcome by the force exerted by a 600-pound shell fired from the 12-inch rifle gun of twenty-five tons, with a battering charge of seventy-six pounds of powder, from a range of 200 yards. At the same time it was proved that this force is incapable of penetrating or doing much injury to those portions immediately in front of the strengthening uprights in rear, or to that portion of the target over which the additional layer of 5-inch plate was fixed. So that, either by the introduction of more uprights, or by an additional course of plating over the whole surface of the face of the fort, we may be assured that the work will be impenetrable by the most powerful gun now in existence, at any range whatever. But here another question arises. Is it probable that any more powerful gun may, in the future, be made? The answer is in the affirmative.

A new rifle gun of 11-inch calibre and weighing 25 tons; in short, the 12 inch gun with its bore reduced to 11 in. will soon be introduced, and we may confidently assert its penetrative power will be some 16 per cent greater than that of the present 12-inch rifle gun of the same weight; and here we may confidently assume that we shall have arrived at the end of our tether in the direction of the most powerful and still manageable ordnance. The vexed question of the relative merits of rifle and smooth-bore guns for attacking iron-clad structures has at last been settled. When fired from a range of 200 yards, with a spherical cast-iron shot of 450 lb. and a charge of 88 lb. of English powder (equivalent to 100 lb. American) the 15 inch Rodman gun could only produce an indentation of about 18 in. diameter, and from 3½ in. to 5 in. deep, either on the 15 in. of the Plymouth Breakwater target or on the solid 15-in. plates, which were also fired at last week, while, as before remarked, the 12-in. rifle shell perforated the target, and a similar shell broke into two pieces the 15-in. rolled iron plate. When the accounts of these experiments reach America they will probably cause some stir, and at last open the eyes of our cousins across the water to the fact that their huge smooth bores stand no chance of competing successfully with our rifle guns.

To return again to the Plymouth Breakwater target. The construction presents two distinct features—1st, the armoured face or front; 2nd, the roof with its supports. These two are each so far independent of the other that the armoured wall must be breached before the stability of the roof can be injured; and this novel feature has been shown by the severe trials of last week to have been successful, for after the three days' practice only twelve rivets had been driven off from the structure carrying the roof, which did not appear to have been in any way whatever further damaged. It is also satisfactory to know that this system of roof can be applied to other constructions, whatever may be the dimensions and arrangements of the front wall. It was stated before the experiments commenced that the charges for the guns would be such as to represent the forces produced at ranges of 1000 and 500 yards respectively, whereas nearly all the rounds fired were with battering charges at 200 yards range. Some explanation of this difference between the programme decided on before the day and that actually carried out is necessary. Now, as the Breakwater target represented a work about to be constructed, a test of the merit of the work would naturally be made by firing against the target the heaviest guns from the shortest ranges at which ships would probably ever engage; but as the assailants of the system of construction clamoured for the most destructive tests that could be applied, the determination of the fittest range was felt to be such a knotty point that Sir John Pakington at first very wisely placed the responsibility of fixing the ranges upon the committee appointed to conduct the experiments—this was the Ordnance Select Committee, with three additional members, Lieutenant-Colonel Belfield and Captain Corres, of the Royal Engineers, and Professor Abel, F.R.S. The committee eventually decided on trying the target with the forces produced by the guns—at 1000 yards, as representing the shortest range at which vessels would attempt to approach the fort if obstructions existed around it, and at 500 yards as the shortest distance if no such obstructions existed. When we consider the perfection to which the system of torpedo obstructions has been brought, and the wonderful part they played, even when constructed in the very rudest manner, during the late American war; when we reflect that the ironclad Warrior can be pierced and sunk even by the 9-inch rifle-gun of twelve tons at 2500 yards, and the battery portion of our most famous ironclad, the Hercules, can be penetrated at 1400 yards by the same gun; and, lastly, when we find that at 200 yards from the fort the space in which a vessel will have to manoeuvre would be about the size of an ordinary shop in Regent-street; then, indeed, we may realise the absurdity of measuring the resistance given by the target to the projectiles with which it was attacked as the real value of the fort under any circumstances of actual warfare, and we have no hesitation in saying that the fort will be invulnerable to any probable attack. There are, however, points of interest and worthy of consideration beyond that of the strength of this particular construction, and the principal one is whether a sufficiently strong work could not be obtained for a less cost. This we will refer to presently.

Four main features have been revealed by the practice against the target and against the two solid 15-inch plates.

In the first place, it was shown that fifteen inches of iron armour, whether in three layers of five inches each or in a solid plate, are incapable of resisting the 12-inch rifle-gun at 200 yards. This is very important, for it has long been maintained, particularly by some of the few manufacturers who can produce solid plates fifteen inches thick, and with whom the wish was probably father to the thought, that solid plates would give vastly superior resistance to that yielded by the same thickness in three layers. Both will keep out shot from the 12-inch gun at 200 yards, while the shell from the same gun just penetrates the fifteen inches in three layers, and breaks in two the solid 15-inch plate; besides this, the joints of a fort covered with such plates would be weaker than the joints of the target tried, as the weakness they

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